

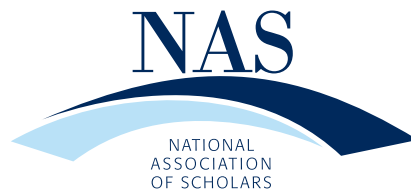
RECASTING HISTORY

ARE RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER DOMINATING AMERICAN HISTORY?



**A Study of U.S. History Courses at the
University of Texas and Texas A&M University**

January 2013



A study sponsored by the Texas Association of Scholars and
the National Association of Scholars' Center for the Study of the Curriculum

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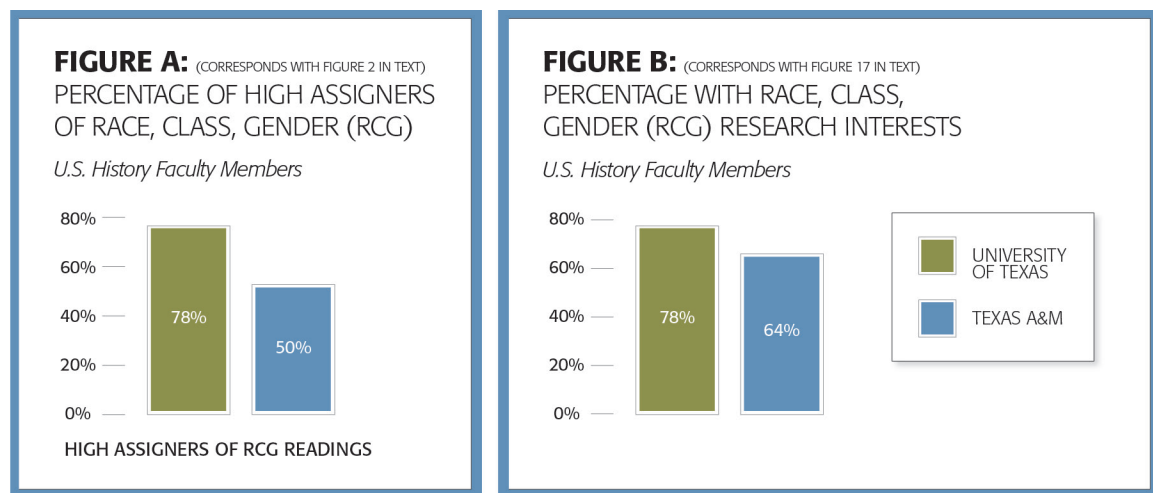
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1971, the state of Texas enacted a legislative requirement that students at public institutions complete two courses in American history. With that mandate in mind, the Texas Association of Scholars and the National Association of Scholars' Center for the Study of the Curriculum proposed to determine how students today meet the requirement, and what history departments offer as a means of doing so. What courses can students take, and what vision of U.S. history do those courses present? This study is the result of our investigation.

Our report focuses on the University of Texas at Austin (UT) and Texas A&M University at College Station (A&M), flagship institutions serving large undergraduate populations. For this study we examined all 85 sections of lower-division American history courses at A&M and UT in the Fall 2010 semester that satisfied the U.S. history requirement. We looked at the assigned readings for each course and the research interests of the forty-six faculty members who taught them. We also compared faculty members' research interests with the readings they chose to assign.

We found that all too often the course readings gave strong emphasis to race, class, or gender (RCG) social history, an emphasis so strong that it diminished the attention given to other subjects in American history (such as military, diplomatic, religious, intellectual history). The result is that these institutions frequently offered students a less-than-comprehensive picture of U.S. history. We found, however, that the situation was far more problematic at the University of Texas than at Texas A&M University.

We classified course readings by how much they focused on race, class, and gender. Course sections with half or more of their content having an RCG focus were classified as high; those with 25 to 49 percent having an RCG focus were classified as moderate; and those with less than 25 percent having an RCG focus were classified as limited. We classified faculty members assigning primarily high RCG readings as "high assigners" of RCG materials.



Major Findings:

- **High emphasis on race, class, and gender in reading assignments.**

78 percent of UT faculty members were high assigners of RCG readings;
50 percent of A&M faculty members were high assigners of RCG readings.

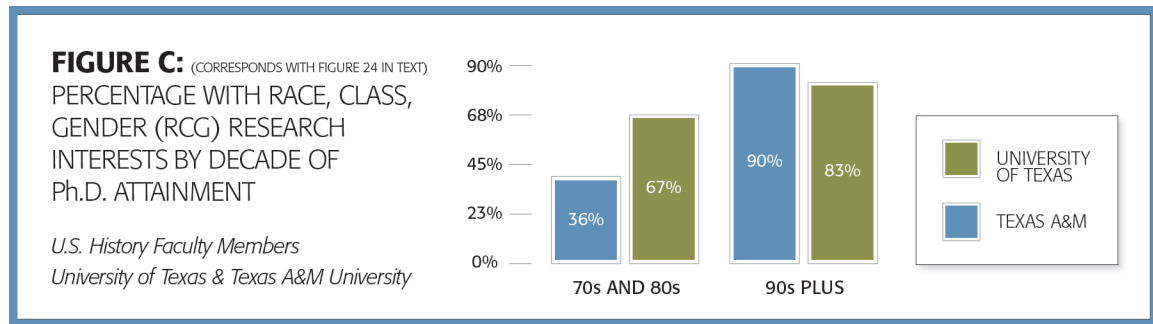
- **High level of race, class, and gender research interests among faculty members teaching these courses**

78 percent of UT faculty members had special research interests in RCG;
64 percent of A&M faculty members had special research interests in RCG.

- **More recent Ph.D.s are more likely to focus research on race, class, and gender**

83 percent of UT faculty members teaching these courses who received their Ph.D.s in the 90s or later had RCG research interests, while only 67 percent of UT faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in the 70s or 80s had RCG research interests.

90 percent of A&M faculty members teaching these courses who received their Ph.D.s in the 90s or later had RCG research interests, while only 36 percent of A&M faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in the 70s or 80s had RCG research interests.



There were institutional differences in the associations between research interests and reading assignments. At A&M, those with RCG research interests were significantly higher assigners of RCG reading assignments than those without such RCG research interests. On the other hand, there was no such relationship at UT. At UT, both RCG and non-RCG research-focused faculty members were predominately high assigners of RCG readings.

The extent to which UT faculty members gave high assignments of RCG readings—whether or not they had special RCG research interests, and regardless of when they received their Ph.D.s—suggests that the culture in an institution and its history department plays a greater role than other factors in influencing reading assignment choices. Additionally, a much higher percentage of UT faculty members teaching survey courses made high RCG assignments than survey course teachers at A&M.

An inordinate focus on RCG isn't the only problem. As RCG emphases crowd out other aspects and themes in American history, we find other problems setting in, including the narrow tailoring of “special topics” courses and the absence of significant primary source documents. Special topics courses used by students to fulfill the history requirement lack historical breadth; they seem to exist mainly to allow

faculty members to teach their special interests. In those courses and in more general courses, too, faculty members failed to assign many key documents from American history, for example, none of them assigning the Mayflower Compact or Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. Only one faculty member assigned the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," and only one assigned *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville. Moreover, rarely did reading assignments contain anything about figures such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Dewey, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas A. Edison, the Wright brothers, or the scientists of the Manhattan Project.

These trends extend beyond the two flagship Texas universities. History departments at other universities around the United States share similar characteristics, such as faculty members' narrow specializations; high emphasis on race, class, and gender; exclusion of key concepts; and failure to provide broad coverage of U.S. history.

If colleges and universities are to provide students with full and sound knowledge of American history, some things need to change. Teachers of American history should take race, class, and gender into account and should help students understand those aspects of our history, but those perspectives should not take precedence over all others.

We Offer Ten Recommendations:

1. **Review the curriculum.** History departments should review existing curricula, eliminate inappropriate over-emphases, and repair gaps and under-emphases.
2. **If necessary, convene an external review.** If history departments are unwilling to undertake such a review, deans, provosts, or trustees need to consider an external review.
3. **Hire faculty members with a broader range of research interests.** Hiring committees should employ new faculty members who have a solid understanding of the broad narrative of American history.
4. **Keep broad courses broad.** Survey and introductory courses should give comprehensive overviews.
5. **Identify essential reading.** As a safeguard against overlooking essential material, history department members should collaborate to develop lists of readings that the department expects students at a given course level to study.
6. **Design better courses.** Departments should promote the development of courses that contribute to a robust, evenhanded, and reasonably complete curriculum.
7. **Diversify graduate programs.** Graduate programs in U.S. history should ensure that they do not unduly privilege themes of race, class, and gender.
8. **Evaluate conformity with laws.** Other states should enact laws similar to the Texas requirement that students complete two courses in American history, but better accountability is needed to ensure that colleges' teaching lines up with legal provisions.

9. **Publish better books.** Publishers should publish textbooks and anthologies that more adequately represent the full range of U.S. history.
10. **Depoliticize history.** Historians and professors of United States history should counter mission creep by returning to their primary task: handing down the American story, as a whole, to future generations.

INTRODUCTION

Americans are increasingly disconcerted by the gap between the credentials of college graduates and the learning they have actually acquired over four or more years of undergraduate study. A student who earned an "A" in freshman composition, they find, may not write very well. Employers complain that recent graduates don't possess adequate workplace skills, while national surveys uncover deficits in basic knowledge of history, science, and civics.

This report zeroes in on one field, American history, as it was presented in freshman and sophomore history courses at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M at College Station, the two largest public campuses in the state, during the fall semester of 2010.

We reviewed the reading assignments and research interests of the faculty members teaching these courses. What we found all too often was an inordinate emphasis on issues of race, class, and gender, a focus that, far from expanding and diversifying knowledge of U.S. history, presents a constrained version of the past. We found, however, that the situation was far more problematic at the University of Texas than at Texas A&M University.

Background

We focused on the Texas examples because of the relatively good accessibility of data. In 1971, the Texas Legislature enacted a law that requires all students at public higher education institutions to complete two courses in American history.¹ The most relevant regulation implementing this law² contains the following stipulations:

1. Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States, with the option of including Texas history for a portion of this component area.
2. Courses involve the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.

The law obliges history departments in public universities to offer a sufficient number of relevant sections to allow students to fulfill the requirement. The stated intention of the legislation was to increase general civic awareness and the civic knowledge of college graduates. In 2009, the Texas Legislature enacted another law that requires universities to make public the backgrounds, research interests, and course assignments of faculty members. The same law, HB2504, requires that the syllabi of all courses be reachable within "three clicks" of the institution's home page.

1 The text of this law is included as Appendix 2 to this report. During the same legislative session, a law requiring students to take two courses in American Government with special consideration of the Constitution of the United States was also passed. It is not unreasonable to assume that both the American History and American Government requirements were intended to increase the general civic awareness and civic knowledge of college graduates.

2 The most recent regulation addresses these mandated courses through general education or core curriculum requirements.

Taken together, these legal provisions mean that public universities in Texas must provide all students with courses in American history, and that we can find out a substantial amount about who actually teaches these courses and how they are taught. The availability of such a range of information is highly unusual in American higher education, even for public universities. The Texas situation presents an opportunity for systematic analysis. To our knowledge, ours is the first study to take full advantage of the chance to go beyond the mere listing of courses in a college catalog to offer a close examination of the content of the courses and the scholarly interests of the faculty.

General Procedures

While lower-division courses in math and physical science have a predictable content—organic chemistry covers pretty much the same material no matter who teaches it—American history content can vary widely from course to course. Depending on the choices made by those who teach them, one course might highlight one period over another, while another might favor political topics over social or economic ones, or vice versa.

Since for most students these courses provide the only exposure they will ever get to college-level American history, these variations are important. The major purpose of this report is to examine them. To do this, we divided course readings and faculty interests into 11 broad content categories well established in the discipline (for full definitions of these categories see Appendix 3):

- Diplomatic and International Relations History
- Economic and Business History
- Military History
- Philosophical and Intellectual History
- Political History
- Religious History
- Scientific, Environmental, and Technological History
- Social History with Gender Emphasis
- Social History with Racial and Ethnic Emphasis
- Social History with Social Class Emphasis
- Social and Cultural History - Other

We examined 85 course sections offered during the fall semester of the 2010-2011 academic year; the courses were taught by 46 faculty members. These comprised all of the lower-division American history courses—and faculty members teaching them—that satisfied the legislative requirement in American history at the University of Texas and Texas A&M University during that semester. These courses are of three distinct types: general American history survey courses, Texas history courses, and a group of “special topics” American history courses. We collected all the reading assignments in the 85 courses as well as the curricula vitae of the 46 teachers.

We analyzed the syllabus of every lower division American history section. We looked at the content of the assigned textbooks and supplemental readings. We also examined the curriculum vitae of each of forty-six faculty members teaching American history courses that satisfied the statutory requirement. We compared their research interests with the types of books they assigned. We also gathered information on faculty members' ranks and the years of their highest degree. (A copy of every course syllabus and vitae examined in this study is contained in a separate file available online.)³

Students⁴ taking these courses were generally not history majors but undergraduates fulfilling their general education requirements while meeting the statutory mandates.

Main Findings

Our principal finding is that in meeting the Texas state requirement, the University of Texas and Texas A&M history departments offer a range of lower-division courses that all too often favors one kind of historical study: one that emphasizes race, class, and gender (to which we refer in the report with the abbreviation RCG), and de-emphasizes other approaches such as political, intellectual, economic, diplomatic or military history, or comprehensive survey courses. We do not mean that race-class-gender (RCG) courses or readings are the only options available to freshmen and sophomore students at these two universities: the situation is more complex, and the University of Texas and Texas A&M differ from each other in some pertinent details.

Race, class, and gender are important topics in American history, of course, but few knowledgeable observers would conclude that a college-level introduction to American history with such a strong emphasis on these themes does justice to the larger topic. The number of topics and the depth to which they can be examined in a history course is limited by the number of classroom hours and the amount of material students are expected to read and comprehend. Thus a focus on one set of themes inevitably means less attention to other themes.

Our study shows that the preference for RCG course content, however, is real and substantial. We classified course readings in terms of how much they focused on race, class, and gender. Those course sections with half or more of their content having an RCG focus were classified as high; those with 25 to 49 percent having an RCG focus were classified as moderate; and those with less than 25 percent having an RCG focus were classified as limited. We then classified faculty members assigning primarily high RCG readings as "high assigners" or "high users" of RCG materials.

We examined the data to find out whether there was an association between research interests and reading assignments. An overemphasis on RCG readings contributed to the relatively scant attention that was paid to fundamental documents and texts of American history. Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*

³ This supplemental online report is available at the National Association of Scholars website at http://www.nas.org/articles/complete_us_history_syllabi_vitae_at_ut_and_am.

⁴ The overwhelming majority of these students were freshman and sophomores, but not all, since some students do not complete their general education core curriculum requirements before their junior year.

and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, for instance, were rarely assigned in American history survey courses at these two universities; and numerous political documents, such as the Mayflower Compact and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, were not assigned in any American history courses.

Our analysis shows that the history courses provided by the University of Texas and Texas A&M often fall short of the spirit of the 1971 law, and students are frequently not offered a comprehensive and pluralistic interpretation of our nation's past. Many meet their American history requirement by taking courses that focus on content that makes it impossible to grasp the larger political conflicts, institutional frameworks, and philosophic ideals that have governed the course of American history.

In general, RCG research interests appear to find more favor among American history faculty members at the University of Texas than at Texas A&M. A difference in atmosphere between the two departments may explain why at UT even faculty members without specified RCG interests assigned RCG-themed textbooks and supplementary readings.

Associations

There was a near-perfect relationship between teaching an RCG-themed special topics course and having an RCG research interest. It is through these courses that the strong RCG research interests of faculty members at the University of Texas are most manifest in teaching. There was a far less clear relationship in the survey courses between RCG research interests and RCG assignments, with differences between institutions. At Texas A&M, those with RCG research interests were significantly higher assigners of RCG reading assignments than those without such RCG research interests. On the other hand, there was no such relationship at the University of Texas.

We identified a strong association between RCG assignments and stage of career, with higher assignment rates among those with more recent Ph.D.s at both institutions. We conjecture that this pattern of assignment rates reflects the departmental culture, both in the department as a whole and in the instructor's seniority cohort. As the proportion of faculty members with RCG interests in the relevant group grows, all instructors in the group may become more likely to assign a preponderance of RCG materials to their students. Unlike Texas A&M, UT appears to have already reached the critical mass of RCG faculty within the department as a whole; this seems to have created the atmosphere encouraging faculty to adopt RCG textbooks and supplemental readings.

Conclusions

There is, of course, no single formula for good history teaching, nor should there be. Nor is it a bad thing that faculty members differ in the overall assessment of what is most significant and worthy about the American story. Students benefit from a variety of views and approaches. If they have different instructors in different courses, they come to see the multi-sidedness of historical events. And even if they don't, they can acquire fresh perspectives on American history from other students who have. Diversity of informed opinion makes a university a better place to teach and learn. A history department too narrow or monolithic in its course offerings or views can intellectually shortchange its students and faculty.



Unfortunately, American history at UT and, to a lesser extent, at A&M, fall into the latter condition. Both departments have raised the emphasis of RCG themes in the teaching of U.S. history, at the same time downgrading other history discipline perspectives. The result has been a narrowing conception of our nation and the elevation of racial, class, and sexual identity into the central story of America. Other matters—individual rights, entrepreneurship, industrialization, self-reliance, religion, war, science—fade into the margins along with the persons and events associated with them.

The results of this study provide evidence that this interpretation of American history is probably experienced by many students at the University of Texas and by a growing number at Texas A&M. In fact, the study suggests that Texas A&M has reached a dangerous tipping point in how students will be taught American history. This trend impoverishes U.S. history and it is inconsistent with the spirit of Texas law.

Our report also aims to address the larger question of how such broad gaps have appeared in American higher education between the ostensible subjects of study and what graduates actually know. *General education* in the United States—that component of a college education that focuses on the knowledge and skills that all graduates should acquire—is falling short of public expectations. We think that part of the explanation for that shortfall can be found in these pages. Broadly integrative approaches to core subjects and comprehensive surveys have been displaced by narrow, specialized, and ideologically partisan approaches, largely driven by faculty research agendas. This study offers a fine-grained analysis of how that has happened in two major public universities.

We offer the model for other state universities as well as private colleges and universities that are concerned about the subtle ways a curriculum drifts away from its primary purpose.

PART I—COURSES AND READINGS

Course Types

Eighteen faculty members at UT and twenty-eight at A&M offered courses that fulfilled the American history statutory requirements. The most frequently taught were those that formed the “Introduction to American History” sequence. At the University of Texas, the first course in this sequence (HIS 315K) surveyed U.S. history prior to 1865, while the comparable Texas A&M course (HIST 205) surveyed U.S. history prior to 1877. The second set of introductory courses (HIS 315L and HIST 206 respectively) brought the survey up to the contemporary period. Of the 46 faculty members we studied, 33 (72 percent of the total) taught one of these two surveys.

The percentage of faculty members teaching these two survey courses was higher at A&M than at UT. This is because UT offered more non-survey special topics courses focused on relatively narrow historical topics. Forty-four percent of the UT faculty members covered in our study taught a special topics course. These courses comprised 35 percent of the American history course sections offered there. UT offered six special topics courses and A&M offered one. The Texas A&M course was “American Sea Power.” The six at UT were titled:

- History of Mexican Americans in the US
- Introduction to American Studies
- The Black Power Movement
- Mexican American Women, 1910-Present
- Race and Revolution
- The United States and Africa

As is evident from their titles, most of the UT special topics courses⁵ were focused on race, ethnicity, or gender. It is noteworthy that the University of Texas placed these courses adjacent to the survey courses in the class schedule, implicitly encouraging students to regard them as serving equally to satisfy the American history requirement. By contrast, the one special topic Texas A&M course was clearly separated in the schedule numerically and physically from the survey courses.

In addition, five A&M and two UT faculty members offered Texas history courses, which also partially satisfied the statutory requirements.

There was minimal overlap among the faculty members teaching the American history survey courses, special topics courses, and Texas history courses.⁶ A total of 85 separate American history sections at UT and A&M⁷ satisfied the statutory requirement.⁸

5 The term “special topics” is not used by either UT or Texas A&M, despite their specialized content, but was developed by this report to differentiate those American history courses that were not surveys.

6 Out of the forty-six faculty members, there were three overlaps. No faculty member taught both a special topics course and a survey course and only one faculty member taught both a special topics course and a Texas history course. Only two faculty members who taught Texas history courses also taught a survey course. Our analysis of reading assignments took account of this overlap.

7 There is some discrepancy between the way the two institutions counted “sections,” with A&M frequently treating a discussion section attached to a survey course as a separate section, and UT treating the lecture and accompanying discussion section as itself a single section. Thus a professor teaching a survey course at A&M was classified as teaching 12 sections of American history. For this reason, we focused on individual faculty members and the courses they taught, rather than the sections they taught.

8 Additional upper division American history courses for those students with junior standing could also be used to fulfill the statutory requirements at UT, but since most undergraduates seek to fulfill their general education requirements during their

Overview of Reading Assignments

It is, of course, impossible to know everything that students experienced in these courses without information on the content of lectures, but it is reasonable to suppose that there is a relationship between class content and reading assignments. Accordingly, we concentrated on the reading assignments because we were able to review the syllabi and quantify their content.

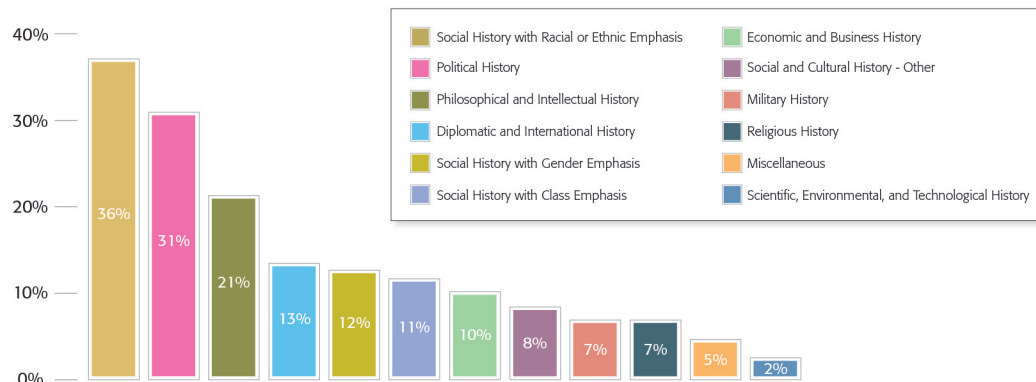
In reviewing the syllabi of the American history courses taught at both campuses and taking duplications of readings into account, we tallied 625 individual reading assignments consisting of 499 titles.⁹ Every reading assignment on every syllabus was classified as belonging to one or several of our eleven discipline categories (see Appendix 3) with an additional miscellaneous category used for reading assignments that could not readily be fitted into a category. Textbooks were classified according to the extent to which they emphasized RCG content, with the assistance of an outside reviewer from the American Textbook Council. Another outside reviewer with a doctorate in political science and a specialty in political history read and initially classified all non-textbook titles based on the subject area content of the reading assignments. Two additional reviewers double-checked these classifications, assessing publishers' notes and published reviews of the materials in question. None of the initial classifications were changed by these other readers, but some supplemental classifications were made whenever a secondary or even tertiary classification was deemed appropriate (in almost every case with the effect of increasing non-RCG designations).

Figure 1 shows how the reading assignments in the survey, special topics, and Texas history courses were classified among the topic categories. It should be noted that 332 of the 499 titles came from six anthologies that were assigned by only seven faculty members teaching survey courses. The others, including those teaching Texas history, each relied on a textbook and only a few additional individual assignments. The faculty members of special topics courses taught without textbooks and anthologies, relying solely on individual reading assignments. Table 1 in Appendix 1 provides the data on topic emphasis of reading assignments, first for total reading assignments (that is to say, those from anthologies plus those assigned independently), second, for assignments that came from anthologies, and third, for those that didn't come from anthologies, (that is to say, the universe of assignments to which most students would have been exposed) (Table 2 in Appendix 1 provides the data supporting each of the percentages in Table 1).

Our procedure aimed at capturing all reading assignments by all professors teaching these courses, and neither over-emphasizing nor under-emphasizing any particular reading.

freshman and sophomore years, this report has focused on lower division classes that meet the statutory requirement. This report assumes that only an extremely small percentage of students would take additional courses to meet the requirement, although there is no data available on exact numbers.

⁹ We acknowledge that some faculty members made additional assignments not reported on their syllabi through their "Blackboard" or websites, which were not publicly accessible. We found references to such assignments in some syllabi. Because we were unable to determine the extent of these assignments, this study focused only on information available on the posted syllabi of the faculty members.

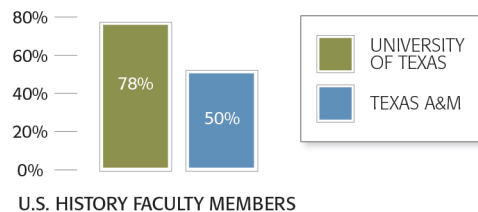
FIGURE 1: ALL READINGS: ASSIGNMENTS BY TOPIC EMPHASIS*U.S. History Courses | University of Texas and Texas A&M University*

Reading Assignment Emphasis Variations among Course Types

While reading assignments involving race or ethnicity emphasis accounted for 34 percent of the supplemental readings in survey courses, they represented 52 percent of Texas history assignments and 67 percent of special topics assignments (See Table 3 in Appendix 1). Gender-themed reading assignments were made most frequently in special topics courses, and class themes occurred most frequently in independently assigned readings in survey courses. The greatest overall thematic one-sidedness occurred in UT's special topics courses, but there was a strong overall RCG tilt in Texas history courses as well. On the other hand, in those survey courses where instructors drew assignments from an anthology, political, economic, intellectual, and diplomatic history themes were far better represented thematically.¹⁰

Overall Level of Reading Assignments Focused on Race, Class, and Gender

We reviewed the assignments made by each instructor to determine whether there was a high, moderate, or limited emphasis on RCG readings. Course sections with half or more of their content having an RCG focus were classified as high; those with 25 to 49 percent having an RCG focus were classified as moderate; and those with less than 25 percent having an RCG focus were classified as limited.

FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE OF HIGH ASSIGNERS OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) ASSIGNMENTS*University of Texas & Texas A&M University*

In Fall 2010, 78 percent of University of Texas faculty members who taught the freshman and sophomore history courses were high assigners of RCG readings, and 50 percent of the Texas A&M faculty members who taught these history courses were RCG high assigners. This is one of our central findings.

¹⁰ More information on use of anthologies is provided in a later section of this study.

No adequate understanding of American history is possible without addressing questions pertaining to race and ethnicity, class, and gender, but when 50 percent or more of assigned readings emphasize these topics, there is reason to suspect that other important themes are getting short shrift. On the other hand, we would expect that many survey courses in American history would include a moderate use of race, gender or class reading assignments. Critical topics in American history, such as slavery, civil rights, industrialization, and the changing labor force would necessarily involve RCG reading assignments.

Sixty-one percent of the faculty members studied were RCG high assigners, UT having significantly more (78 percent) than A&M (50 percent). Thus, student exposure to a broad range of American history topics was more limited in the readings assigned at UT than at A&M. The differences are inflated because of UT's special topics courses, which strongly emphasize RCG reading assignments. Breaking the courses down by category:

- **Survey Courses:** Of the 33 faculty members teaching these courses, 55 percent (18) were high assigners of RCG materials. At UT the figure was 60 percent compared to 52 percent at Texas A&M.
- **Texas History Courses:** Of the seven faculty members teaching these courses, 71 percent (five) were high assigners of RCG materials – both the two UT faculty members, and three of the five Texas A&M faculty members.
- **Special Topics Courses:** All eight of the UT faculty members teaching special topics courses were high assigners of RCG reading assignment. The one at Texas A&M, teaching military history, made no RCG assignments.

FIGURE 3: PERCENTAGE OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) ASSIGNMENTS

*U.S. History Survey Courses
University of Texas & Texas A&M University*

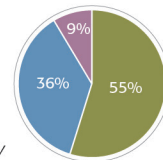


FIGURE 4: PERCENTAGE OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) ASSIGNMENTS

*Texas History Courses
University of Texas & Texas A&M University*

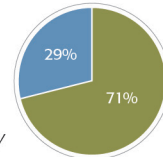
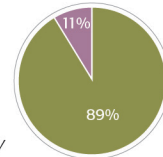


FIGURE 5: PERCENTAGE OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) ASSIGNMENTS

*Special Topics Courses in U.S. History
University of Texas & Texas A&M University*



■ High Usage ■ Moderate Usage ■ Limited Usage

Survey Courses

Thirty-three faculty members taught a general survey course: twenty-three at Texas A&M and ten at the University of Texas. Most assigned a textbook plus three to five supplemental readings.

At UT, six out of the ten faculty members teaching general survey courses (60 percent) were high assigners of RCG readings. At A&M, 12 out of 23 faculty members teaching general survey courses (52 percent) were high assigners.

The emphasis on RCG topics and reading assignments in introductory American history survey courses at both institutions tended to crowd out attention to other aspects of history such as political, intellectual, economic, diplomatic, and military history. This is evident in the small number of courses whose reading

FIGURE 6 — LEVELS OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) ASSIGNMENTS

Textbooks and Supplemental Readings (Excluding Anthologies)

U.S. History Courses

University of Texas and Texas A&M University

	FACULTY #	HIGH USE	MODERATE USE	LIMITED USE
U.S. History Faculty (Total)	46	61%	30%	9%
A&M	28	50%	39%	11%
UT	18	78%	17%	5%
Survey Courses	33	55%	36%	9%
A&M	23	52%	39%	9%
UT	10	60%	30%	10%
Texas History	7	71%	29%	0%
A&M	5	60%	40%	0%
UT	2	100%	0%	0%
Special Topics	9	89%	0%	11%
A&M	1	0%	0%	100%
UT	8	100%	0%	0%

assignments substantially addressed those areas. Without that breadth, it is impossible for the student who takes no other history courses to grasp the larger political conflicts, institutional frameworks, and philosophic ideals that have governed the course of American history.

Most of the reading assignments examined in this study were made by the 33 faculty members teaching survey courses (455 of the 625). Surprisingly, there was very little duplication among these assignments.

Apart from the special anthologies and textbooks, there were 93 individual reading assignments. Only 19 of them were duplicated by more than one faculty member, and only six were assigned by three or more.¹¹ Even when the 332 assignments drawn from the six commercial anthologies are added, there is little overlap. When the anthologies are included, there were 11, rather than six, reading assignments that were assigned by three or more faculty members.¹² The most frequently assigned reading was Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. But this assignment was made by only seven of the 33 faculty members teaching the survey course. Clearly, there is no common core of readings, something that might be expected in an introductory survey.

11 These six were: *Common Sense* (Thomas Paine) with seven assigners, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Harriet Jacobs), and *Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War* (Michael Sharra) both with four assigners; and three works, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Frederick Douglass), *A New England Town* (Kenneth Lockridge), and *The Puritan Dilemma* (Edmund Morgan) with three assigners each.

12 The five additional readings include: "Declaration, 1676" (Nathaniel Bacon), three assigners, *Advertisements for Runaway Slaves*, four assigners, "Family Letters on Revolutionary Matters" (Abigail and John Adams), three assigners, "Farewell Address" (George Washington), three assigners, and "Declaration of Sentiments" (Seneca Falls Declaration), three assigners.

Supplementary Readings

Most survey course instructors (26 of 33 or 79 percent), didn't use anthologies but collectively assigned 93 supplementary readings from sources they chose individually. These independently assigned readings, with 49 of the 93 assignments (53 percent) having an RCG focus, were much more heavily tilted to race, class, and gender themes than those drawn from anthologies. The differences between UT and A&M were significant. Readings with racial and ethnic themes, for example, comprised 44 percent of the 25 reading assignments at UT, compared to 29 percent of the 66 assignments at A&M. On the other hand, 14 percent of A&M assignments focused on military history, while only 4 percent at UT did.¹³

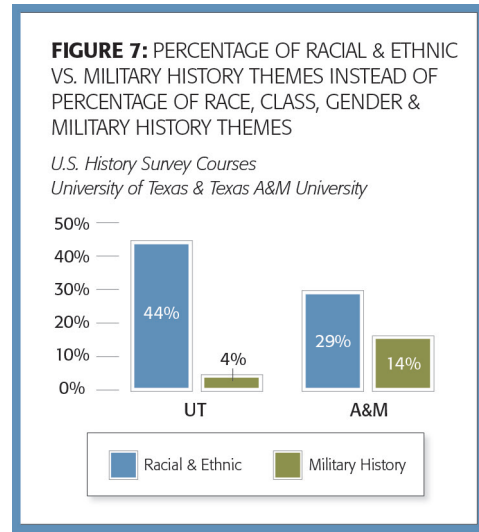


Figure 8 provides a list of the 49 of the 93 reading assignments (or 53 percent of the readings not contained in the six anthologies) that were identified as having a focus on race, ethnicity, class, or gender. Taken individually, a case for inclusion in an American history survey, syllabi could certainly be made for most them. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, are indisputably important texts, and it is unfortunate that the former was assigned by only one faculty member and the latter by only five.¹⁴ Several others might also be considered American classics, such as *The Shame of the Cities* or the film *The Grapes of Wrath*. But once more the issue is the relative emphasis on RCG content compared to other themes and topics.

FIGURE 8 — RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) READING ASSIGNMENTS

Supplementary Readings (Excluding Textbooks and Anthologies)
U.S. History Survey Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

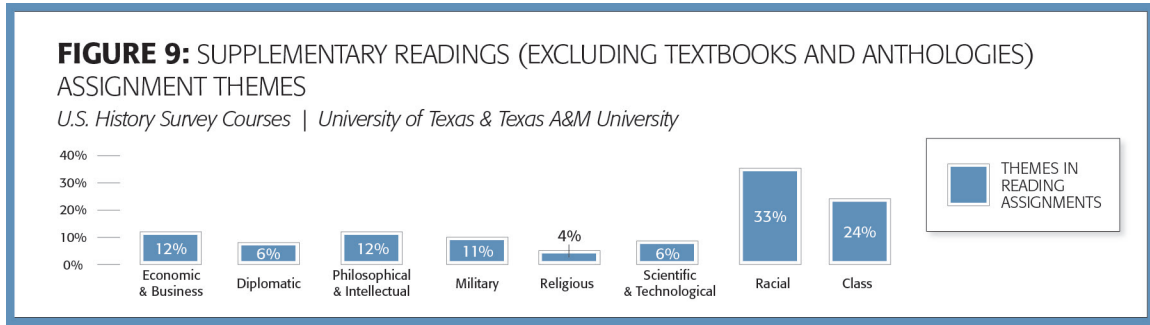
READING	PERSPECTIVE/ANALYTICAL APPROACH			
		Race	Gender	Class
1	Abigail Adams: A Revolutionary American Woman		X	
2	American Negro Slavery	X		
3	American Slavery: 1619-1877	X		
4	Apostles of Disunion	X		
5	Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776	X		X
6	Black Boy	X		
7	Black Like Me	X		

¹³ See Table 4 in Appendix 1.

¹⁴ One assigner of the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* assigned this reading from an anthology, *For the Record, Volume 1*.

8	Bonds of Womanhood: Woman's Sphere in New England, 1780-1835		X	
9	Cesar Chavez and La Causa	X		X
10	Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England	X		
11	Coming of Age in Mississippi	X	X	
12	Grapes of Wrath (Movie)			X
13	Great Depression			X
14	Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men		X	
15	Harvest Gypsies, On the Road to the Grapes of Wrath			X
16	I Came a Stranger: The Story of a Hull House Girl		X	X
17	Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl	X	X	
18	Jackie Robinson and the American Dilemma	X		
19	Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation	X		X
20	Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian Democracy			X
21	Masters without Slaves	X		X
22	Myne Owne Ground: Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1640-1676	X		
23	Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass	X		
24	Natives and Newcomers: The Colonial Origins of North America	X		
25	New England Town: The First Hundred Years			X
26	New Worlds for All: Indians, Europeans, and the Remaking of Early America	X		
27	Our Contemporary Ancestors in the Southern Mountains			X
28	Out of This Furnace: A Novel of Immigrant Labor			X
29	Promised Land: The Great Black Migration	X		
30	Propaganda of History, From Black Reconstruction (1935)	X		X
31	Race and Revolution	X		
32	Ragtime	X		X
33	Reconstruction	X		X
34	Red, White, and Black	X		X
35	Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft			X
36	The Scratch of a Pen	X		
37	The Shame of the Cities			X
38	Shay's Rebellion			X
39	Sitting Bull and the Paradox of Lakota Nationhood	X		
40	Social Reform—Jacksonian Era: Beauty, the Beast, and the Militant Woman		X	
41	Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market	X		
42	The Good Old Days: They Were Terrible!			X
43	The Minutemen and Their World	X	X	X
44	The Shoemaker and the Tea Party			X
45	The South versus the South	X		
46	Uncle Tom's Cabin	X		
47	Warriors Don't Cry	X		
48	Women at Work		X	
49	Women's Rights Emerges with the Antislavery Movement		X	

Among readings (excluding textbooks and anthologies) assigned individually by history faculty members in what were supposed to be *general survey* courses in American history, only 12 percent dealt with economic and business history, 6 percent with diplomatic and international affairs, 12 percent with philosophical and intellectual history, 11 percent with military history (only 4 percent at UT-Austin), 4 percent with religious history, and 6 percent with scientific and technological history, compared with 33 percent with racial themes, 24 percent with social class themes, and 11 percent with gender themes.¹⁵



Commercial Anthologies in Survey Courses

Seven faculty members assigned materials (i.e., articles, extracts, and documents) drawn from six different commercial anthologies, containing in total 332 separate reading assignments.¹⁶ One anthology, *Reading the American Past*, was assigned by two faculty members at UT; all others were assigned in only one course. The number of articles assigned from each anthology varied significantly. While one anthology, *For the Record II*, had 144 assigned readings, two, *After the Fact* and *Going to the Source*, had only 11 assigned readings apiece. Moreover, except for the two faculty members at the University of Texas who assigned the same anthology, there was limited overlap in the articles read by students, only six articles out of the 332 appearing in more than one anthology.

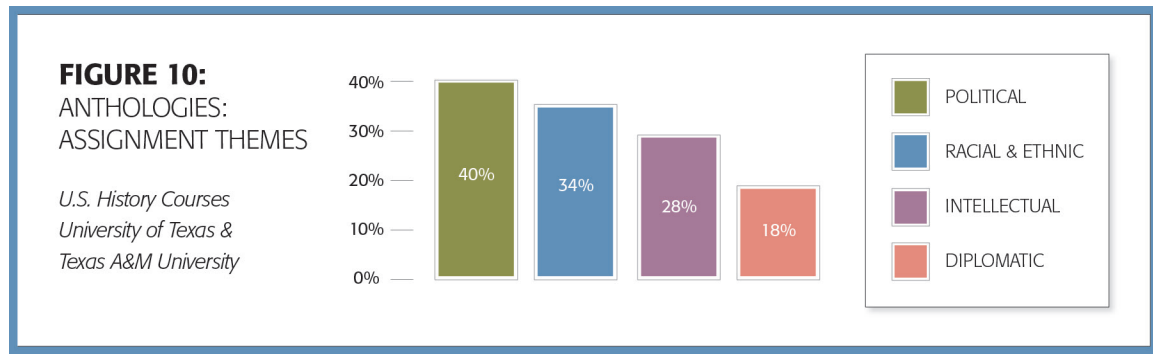
Forty-five percent of the readings assigned from the anthologies were categorized as RCG, and the RCG content of the 332 articles ranged from a low of 36 percent in one anthology to a high of 55 percent in another.¹⁷ Among these, political themes were most frequent at 40 percent, followed by racial and ethnic themes at 34 percent. But intellectual and diplomatic topics were also fairly well represented at 28 percent and 18 percent, respectively.¹⁸

¹⁵ See Table 4 in Appendix 1.

¹⁶ Overall, the six anthologies contained more than the 332 readings assigned by the faculty members because some articles in the anthologies were not assigned.

¹⁷ See Figure 28 on page 40.

¹⁸ See Table 1 in Appendix 1.



Primary Source Documents in Survey Courses

Many political documents that one would expect to find in an American history survey were missing from the reading assignments. Classic historical memoirs or autobiographies were rarely assigned.

The six assigned anthologies were not helpful in providing access to primary source documents. Only one anthology assigned by only two faculty members (*Reading the American Past*) gave students reading assignments that included George Washington's Farewell Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Gettysburg Address. Only one faculty member assigned the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Of the 33 faculty members who taught survey courses, only four assigned even portions of the *Notes on the State of Virginia* by Thomas Jefferson and only one assigned *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville. The most assigned primary political text, assigned by seven faculty members, was *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine. The U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, was assigned by only two faculty members. Only one instructor provided access to other key Supreme Court decisions, including *Plessy v. Ferguson* and *Brown v. the Board of Education*. Classic political documents such as the Mayflower Compact and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address were not assigned by any faculty members.

Other than the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass with five assigners and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs with four, there were no historically important memoirs or autobiographies included in the assignments. Missing from the assignments were any selections from autobiographies by Ulysses S. Grant, Booker T. Washington, or Harry S. Truman. Moreover, rarely did reading assignments contain anything about figures such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Dewey, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas A. Edison, the Wright brothers, or the scientists of the Manhattan Project.

Some faculty members assigned novels. Three at Texas A&M assigned *Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War* by Michael Shaara. Individual instructors at A&M also assigned *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque, *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane, and *Ragtime* by E.L. Doctorow. At UT, one faculty member assigned a novel about immigrants, *Out of this Furnace: A Novel of Immigrant Labor* by Thomas Bell, and one assigned *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

In determining the texts U.S. history courses were missing, we sought a standard list of the most important ones. We consulted the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which has published a list of 100 "milestone documents" of U.S. history from 1776 to 1965.¹⁹ NARA reports that it chose these 100

¹⁹ Full List: *Our Documents: 100 Milestone Documents from the National Archives*. <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/content.php?page=milestone>

because “they have helped shape the national character, and they reflect our diversity, our unity, and our commitment as a nation to continue our work toward forming ‘a more perfect union.’”²⁰

We compared the UT and A&M U.S. history assigned readings with this list because it was compiled by an independent organization and provides a good representation of some of the most important primary sources in U.S. history.^{21,22,23}

Of these 100, only 23 were assigned, and these were assigned by only five faculty members (out of the 46 total), two at A&M and three at UT. In other words, 89 percent of faculty members teaching lower-division U.S. history courses assigned none of the 100 key documents, and 77% of the documents went totally unassigned. The 23 assigned documents were:

- Declaration of Independence (1776)
- Articles of Confederation (1777)
- Constitution of the United States (1787)
- Federalist Paper No. 10 and No. 45 (1787)
- Bill of Rights: 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments (1865, 1868, 1970)
- President George Washington’s Farewell Address (1796)
- Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)
- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (1857)
- Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
- Gettysburg Address (1863)
- Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
- Dawes Act (1887)
- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
- Theodore Roosevelt’s Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine (1905)
- Zimmerman Telegram (1917)
- Joint Address to Congress Leading to a Declaration of War Against Germany (1917)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt: “The Four Freedoms” (1941)
- Truman Doctrine (1947)

20 Why Were These 100 Documents Chosen? http://www.ourdocuments.gov/content.php?flash=true&page=why_these_100

21 Other sources proved less suitable. The Constitution Society has a similar list, but it goes up to only 1800, and the Library of Congress’s goes up to only 1877. The Gilder Lehrman Collection archives contain mostly maps, images, and photographs, and are fragmented into many different subject areas. Neither the American Historical Association nor the History Channel have their own lists (the History Channel is a sponsor of the National Archives 100 Milestones initiative), nor does the Historical Society in Boston, which provides on its website a link to the National Archives.

22 Another useful source is *Documents of American History*, edited by Henry Steele Commager. The table of contents is available at http://www.nas.org/images/documents/Documents_of_American_History_table_of_contents.pdf. This anthology was published and last updated in 1946 and it includes documents up to the year 1941. We compared NARA’s list of 100 milestone documents with Commager’s anthology of 541. Of the 73 milestone documents through 1941, 66 percent, or two-thirds (48) overlap with the older anthology. It appears that for the most part, the National Archives chose documents that have been generally accepted through the years as the key documents in U.S. history.

23 Most of the documents are written texts such as speeches, laws, and Supreme Court cases. A few, such as the check for the purchase of Alaska, the Zimmerman telegram, and the aerial photograph of missiles in Cuba, are artifacts rather than texts.

- Marshall Plan (1948)
- *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)
- President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address (1961)
- President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address (1961)

Most students taking U.S. history courses, however, did not have exposure to any of these key works of American history.²⁴

Eleven course syllabi noted that additional readings would be available in separate handouts, on the course website, in the online library system, on Blackboard, or on JSTOR. Because they were not listed on the publicly available syllabi, we did not have access to the titles of these readings.

The available information on the syllabi, however—showing an absence of most key primary source documents—verifies that the domination of RCG themes results in cuts to important readings.

Textbooks in Survey Courses

Twenty-nine of the 33 faculty members teaching survey courses assigned 17 textbooks. Four faculty members did not use a textbook while three assigned two textbooks in each of their courses. Only nine texts, shown on Figure 12, were adopted by two or more faculty members, while another eight were adopted by only one faculty member.

We classified the 17 textbooks into the three categories of RCG focus: high, moderate, and limited. Seven had high emphasis on race, class, and gender; two had moderate RCG emphasis; and eight had limited RCG emphasis, as shown in Figure 12. There was a sharp contrast between UT and A&M in the thematic tilt of the textbooks adopted. Of the 24 textbook assignments at Texas A&M, 12 (50 percent) assigned textbooks with limited RCG emphasis, two (9 percent) counteracted a high RCG text with a limited RCG one, and seven (29 percent) assigned only a high RCG text. On the other hand, of the nine textbook-using faculty members at UT, only two (25 percent) assigned a text with limited RCG emphasis, one (13 percent) counteracted a high RCG with a limited RCG text, and seven (88 percent) assigned a high RCG text (see Table 5 in Appendix 1 for numbers of textbook assignments in each RCG level).

²⁴ Some course syllabi included primary source documents not listed among the National Archives' 100 "milestone documents." These were:

Thomas Paine: *Common Sense* (1776)

Thomas Jefferson: *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1782)

Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789)

Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (1790)

Abraham Lincoln: *Speech in Peoria, Illinois* (1854)

Theodore Roosevelt: *The College Graduate and Public Life*, *Atlantic Magazine* (1894)

Students for a Democratic Society: "The Port Huron Statement" (1962)

MLK: *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* (1963)

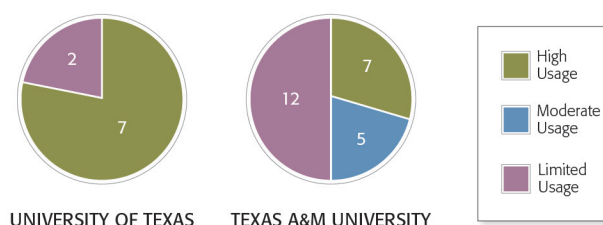
LBJ on Vietnam (1965)

George W. Bush: "National Security Strategy of the United States of America" (2002)

The 911 Commission Report (2004)

FIGURE 11: TEXTBOOKS: LEVEL OF RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER EMPHASIS

U.S. History Survey Courses
University of Texas & Texas A&M University



**FIGURE 12 – TEXTBOOK ASSIGNMENTS
 (EXCLUDING SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS AND ANTHOLOGIES)**

U.S. History Survey Courses
 University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Multiple Assigners*

TITLE	RATING	LEAD AUTHOR	# OF ASSIGNERS	INSTITUTION
America, A Narrative History, Vol I & Vol II	Limited	Tindall, George	5	A&M
America: A Concise History, Vol I & Vol II	Moderate	Henretta, James	4	A&M
Give Me Liberty! An American History, Vol I	High	Foner, Eric	3	A&M (1) UT (2)
A People's History of the United States	High	Zinn, Howard**	3	A&M (2) UT (1)
Unfinished Nation, Vol I and Vol II	Limited	Brinkley, Alan	2	A&M
Nation of Nations, Vol I	High	Davidson, James	2	UT
US: A Narrative History, Vol 2	High	Davidson, James	2	UT
Visions of America	High	Keene, Jennifer	2	A&M
A History of the American People	Limited	Johnson, Paul**	2	A&M (1) UT (1)

One Assigner

America: Past and Present	Limited	Robert Devine	1	A&M
The American Past	Limited	Joseph Conlin	1	A&M
The American People	High	Gary Nash	1	A&M
American Stories	Limited	H. W. Brands	1	UT
A History of the American People	Limited	Stephen Thernstrom	1	A&M
Of the People	High	James Oakes	1	A&M
Out of Many	Moderate	John Faragher	1	A&M
A Patriot's History of the United States	Limited	Larry Schweikart	1	A&M

* Textbook assigned by more than one faculty member

** The Zinn text and the Johnson text were twice paired with another to provide "interpretative balance"—once at A&M and by another at UT. The Zinn text was paired once with the Schweikart text at A&M.

Texas History Courses

At A&M, three out of the five faculty members teaching Texas history courses (60 percent) were classified as high assigners of RCG readings, while both UT faculty members (100 percent) were high assigners of RCG readings.

Eight sections of Texas history, taught by seven faculty members, were offered at the two institutions. The six taught at A&M were lower division courses fulfilling the American history requirement. These sections were taught by five faculty members, with one visiting professor offering two sections. At the University of Texas two faculty members taught one section of Texas history each, and these two sections were upper division classes (although they also qualified as fulfilling the American history requirement).

Six out of the seven Texas history instructors assigned one of three textbooks.²⁵ (The other faculty member did not use a textbook.) Instructors also assigned twenty-one other readings, including four films (see Figure 13). Of the supplementary assignments, 73 percent had a race, class, or gender emphasis,²⁶ substantially more than those in the survey courses.

**FIGURE 13 — ALL READINGS: ASSIGNMENTS WITH/WITHOUT
RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) EMPHASIS**

Texas History Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

RACE, CLASS OR GENDER TOPIC			
READING		YES	NO
1	Black Texans: A History of African Americans	X	
2	Border Bandits—The Texas Rangers and the Legacy of Racial Violence (film)	X	
3	Captured: A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier	X	
4	Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas, Mexican Workers and Job Politics during WWII	X	
5	Creating the New Woman: The Rise of Southern Women's Progressive Culture in Texas, 1893-1918	X	
6	Farewell: A Memoir of a Texas Childhood		X
7	Feeding the Wolf: John B. Rayner and the Politics of Race, 1850-1918	X	
8	Giant Under the Hill: A History of the Spindletop Oil Discovery at Beaumont, Texas in 1901		X

²⁵ Three faculty members, all at Texas A&M, used a Texas history textbook authored by Robert Calvert, *The History of Texas*. One Texas A&M faculty member used a history text by Rupert Richardson, *Texas: The Lone Star State*. A text by Jesus De La Teja titled, *Texas: Crossroads of North America* was used by a UT faculty member and another at Texas A&M University.

²⁶ One of the assignments, *Major Problems in Texas History*, was actually an anthology which contained many RCG articles. This anthology was used by only one faculty member, whose use of RCG supplemental readings was already rated as high without the anthology selections.

9	Homesteads Ungovernable: Families, Sex, Race, and the Law in Frontier Texas, 1823-1860	X	
10	Life Among the Texas Indians: The WPA Narratives	X	
11	Lone Star Stalag, German Prisoners of War at Camp Hearne		X
12	Major Problems in Texas History	X	
13	Modern Texas, 1971-2001, in Gone To Texas, A History of the Lone Star State		X
14	Sam Houston and the American Southwest		X
15	Sleuthing the Alamo: Davy Crockett's Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution	X	
16	Strange Career of Bilingual Education in Texas 1836-1981	X	
17	Tejano Legacy: Rancheros and Settlers in South Texas, 1734-1900	X	
18	The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter (film)	X	
19	They Called Them Greasers: Anglo Attitudes Toward Mexicans in Texas 1821-1900	X	
20	When I Rise: The Story of Barbara Smith Conrad (film)	X	
21	"With His Pistol in His Hand": A Border Ballad and Its Hero	X	

Special Topics Courses

Overall, faculty members at UT were typically higher assigners of RCG themed readings than faculty members at A&M. This institutional difference was partly a function of the prevalence of special topics courses with high RCG content at the University of Texas.

Nine sections of special topics courses covered specific topics in American history rather than giving a broad overview. Students can take these courses to satisfy the legal requirement for American history study. The seven topics covered in the semester we studied (also listed on Figure 14) were "History of American Sea Power" (Texas A&M); "History of Mexican Americans in the US"; "Introduction to American Studies"; "Black Power Movement"; "Mexican American Women, 1910-present"; "Race and Revolution"; and "The United States and Africa" (University of Texas).²⁷

FIGURE 14 – TITLES OF SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES IN U.S. HISTORY

University of Texas and Teexas A&M University

Texas A&M

American Sea Power

University of Texas

History of Mexican Americans in the U.S.
 Introduction to American Studies
 Black Power Movement
 Mexican American Women, 1910 - present
 Race and Revolution
 The United States and Africa

²⁷ No faculty member taught more than one of these courses. Introduction to American Studies was offered in two sections with separate faculty members.

As their titles suggest, special topics courses at UT were thematically lopsided. All of the eight faculty members teaching these courses made high usage of race, class, and gender readings—over 50 percent of their reading assignments focused on RCG topics.

While special topics courses were neither U.S. history surveys nor Texas history courses, they fulfilled the state statutory requirement. UT also appears to do more to encourage students to take its special topics courses as a means of satisfying the statutory American history requirement than does Texas A&M. UT placed these special topics courses next to survey courses in its 2010 course schedule; A&M did not.

All the UT faculty members teaching these courses had an RCG research interest, and all the UT faculty members for these courses were high RCG reading assigners. The instructor at A&M, a military historian, made no RCG assignments in his naval history course. No textbooks were assigned in any of these special topics sections; the teachers relied instead upon 31 specific reading assignments. Three were for the A&M course. At UT, 25 out of 28 assignments were RCG-focused, with 23 of them dealing specifically with race and ethnicity. Figure 15 provides information on the titles and topics of those assignments.

Conclusion

At the University of Texas the special topics reading assignments were heavily dominated by RCG themes, as were the Texas history supplemental reading assignments. All the instructors teaching these courses were high RCG assigners. There were also more variety at both institutions among the American history surveys but with more apparent thematic coverage gaps at the University of Texas. Even in survey courses there remained a problem of crowding out political, economic, diplomatic, and military topics.

In addition to their intense preoccupation with RCG issues, special topics courses failed to present students with an overview of American history's broader sweep. Encouraging students to satisfy part (or all) of the statutory requirement by taking special topics courses, as the University of Texas appears to do, seems inconsistent with the spirit of the 1971 statute meant to ensure that students gain a command of the larger American and Texan narratives.

FIGURE 15 — RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) READING ASSIGNMENTS

Special Topics Courses in U.S. History
University of Texas

READING		RGC TOPIC		
		Race	Class	Gender
1	Africanisms in American Culture	X		
2	Assata: An Autobiography	X		X
3	Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child	X		
4	Becoming Mexican-American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1940-1945	X	X	X
5	Chicana Feminist Thought	X	X	X
6	Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas, Mexican Workers and Job Politics in WWII	X	X	X
7	Coming of Age in Mississippi	X		X
8	Die, Nigger	X		
9	From Out of the Shadows	X		X
10	Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah	X	X	
11	Lakota Woman	X		X
12	Little X: Growing Up in the Nation of Islam	X		X
13	Looking East from Indian Country	X		
14	Mexicanos: A History of Mexicans in the United States	X		
15	Mistaking Africa: Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind	X		
16	Negroes with Guns	X		
17	Raza Si! Guerra No! Chicano Protest and Patriotism in the Vietnam Era	X	X	
18	Slacks and Calluses: Our Summer in a Bomber Factory			X
19	Texas Occupational Distribution and Relative Concentration of Mexicans	X		
20	The Atlantic World 1450-2000	X		
21	The Shawnees and the War for America	X		
22	The Two Princes of Calabar	X		
23	Voluntary Organizations and the Ethic of Mutuality	X		
24	When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in Colonial New Mexico, 1500-1800	X		X
25	Where the Girls Are: Growing up Female with the Mass Media			X

PART II—FACULTY MEMBERS’ RESEARCH INTERESTS

Overall Level of Research Interests in Race, Class, and Gender

The 46 American history faculty members we studied²⁸ had various areas of specialization, exemplified by the research interests and publications listed on their curricula vitae. This study identifies eleven such areas,²⁹ the same as were used to classify course readings. We placed all 46 faculty members in one or more of the categories that most closely matched the interests expressed in their vitae.³⁰ We derived the following breakdown as summarized on Figure 16.

FIGURE 16 — RESEARCH INTERESTS LISTED ON U.S. HISTORY MEMBERS’ VITAE* University of Texas and Texas A&M University		
DISCIPLINE CATEGORY	Number of Faculty with Interest	Percentage of Faculty with Interest
Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	29	63%
Social and Cultural History - Other	19	41%
Social History with Gender Emphasis	16	35%
Social History with Social Class Relationships	15	33%
Political History	13	28%
Economic and Business History	12	26%
Diplomatic and International History	10	22%
Scientific, Environmental, and Technological History	8	17%
Military History	7	15%
Religious History	7	15%
Philosophical and Intellectual History	0	0%

*Percentages reflect the percentage of faculty members whose expressed research interests fell into one or another of these categories. Because in most cases, faculty members had more than one research interest, the percentage total exceeds 100%. Overall 136 separate research interests were identified and classified into these eleven categories.

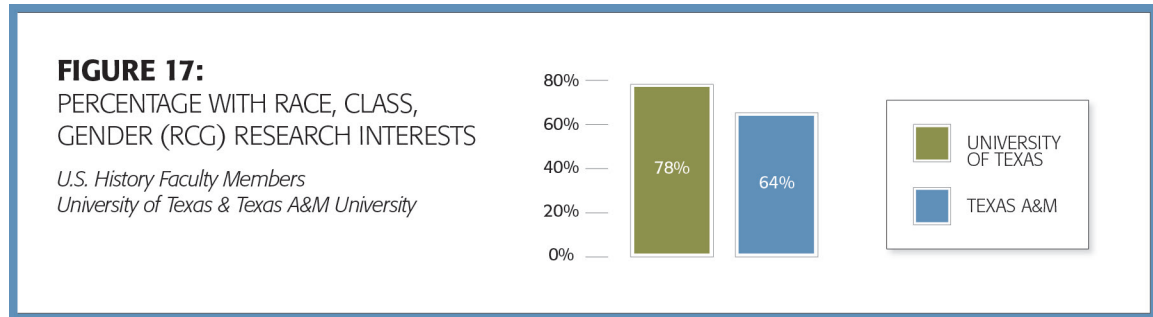
28 The 46 faculty members include full-time regular members of each history department in addition to visiting and adjunct faculty members.

29 Full definitions of these areas are contained in Appendix 3.

30 We found it useful to distinguish four categories within social history, while recognizing the strong potential for overlap. The use of multiple categories allowed more refinement in analyzing the mix of faculty research interest. It also helped us analyze (in the next part of the study) whether faculty members with particular interests tended to give reading assignments that matched their own interests.

The most frequently stated research interest was social history with racial or ethnic emphasis, with 63 percent of all faculty members listing this as an interest.³¹ Interest in gender and class related subject matter also outranked interest in political history. Not a single faculty member teaching American history expressed a research interest in philosophical and intellectual history.

Figures 17 and 18 contrast faculty members at UT and A&M across all three course categories. This is another one of our central findings: at UT, 78 percent of the faculty members teaching these courses had special research interests in race, class, and gender, and at A&M, 64 percent had RCG research interests.³²



For UT faculty members, race/ethnicity, class, or gender were listed in three of the top four research interests. By contrast, at Texas A&M, political history and economic and business history ranked second and fourth, respectively. At A&M, diplomatic and military history also ranked much higher as research interests than they did at the University of Texas. Nonetheless, race/ethnicity still ranked first as an interest at Texas A&M, indicated by 18 of the 28 instructors teaching American history. The most frequently embraced research interest among the University of Texas faculty members teaching American history, as shown on Figure 18, was “Social and Cultural History – Other,” a general category of social history focused on topics such as age, education, and material and visual culture, including performing arts, music, fashion, and architecture. A full definition of this category is provided in Appendix 3.³³

Additional categories under social history were “social history with racial or ethnic emphasis,” “social history with gender emphasis,” and “social history with social class emphasis.” At UT 61 percent of the 18 faculty members indicated a more specific interest in race or ethnicity, 50 percent in class, and 44 percent in gender. No other subject attracted the interest of more than 30 percent. At Texas A&M race and ethnicity ranked first at 64 percent, but there was relatively less interest in gender- and class-related topics and more in political, diplomatic, and military subjects. At both institutions, research interest in historical topics related to race and ethnicity, class, and gender showed heavy overlap. In fact, these three research themes were so intertwined that a combined research category of RCG is very appropriate.

31 While “Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis” on Figure 16 included European ethnic history, only 5 of the 29 professors declared an interest in European ethnic history. Most recent historical interest in race and ethnicity has, in fact, been concerned with non-white or minority ethnics. In order to focus on this particular interest, when RCG research interest was used in our analysis, the professors expressing an interest only in European ethnic history have been excluded.

32 See Table 7 in Appendix 1.

33 These data can be looked at in several ways. Figure 18 enumerates the number of faculty members who indicate an interest in each subject area. By the same token, if one looks at the percentage of total citations of interest (see Table 6 in Appendix 1) in “Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis,” they are about twice that of political history or any other non-social history citation.

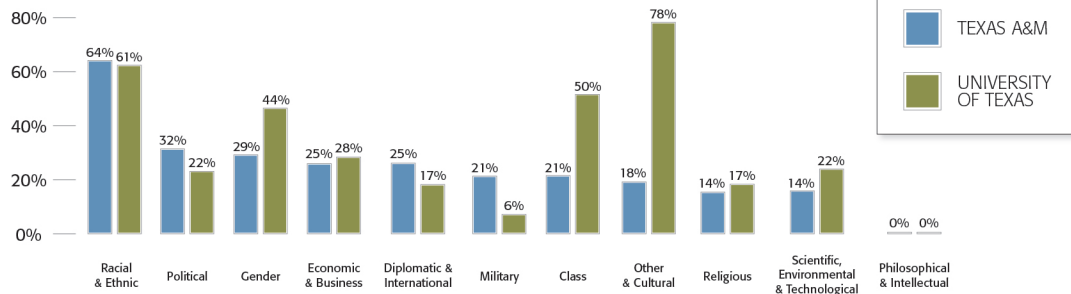
FIGURE 18 (TABLE FOR FIGURE 19)
RESEARCH INTEREST BY DISCIPLINE AND CATEGORY

U.S. History Faculty Members
 University of Texas and Texas A&M University

TEXAS A&M (28)				UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (18)			
		Faculty with Interest	% of Total Faculty			Faculty with Interest	% of Total Faculty
1	Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	18	64%	1	Social & Cultural History - Other	14	78%
2	Political History	9	32%	2	Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	11	61%
3	Social History with Gender Emphasis	8	29%	3	Social History with Social Class Emphasis	9	50%
4	Economic and Business History	7	25%	4	Social History with Gender Emphasis	8	44%
5	Diplomatic and International Relations History	7	25%	5	Economic and Business History	5	28%
6	Military History	6	21%	6	Political History	4	22%
7	Social History with Social Class Emphasis	6	21%	7	Scientific, Environmental, and Technological History	4	22%
8	Social & Cultural History - Other	5	18%	8	Diplomatic & International Relations History	3	17%
9	Religious History	4	14%	9	Religious History	3	17%
10	Scientific, Environmental, and Technological History	4	14%	10	Military History	1	6%
11	Philosophical and Intellectual History	0	0%	11	Philosophical and Intellectual History	0	0%

FIGURE 19: RESEARCH INTERESTS BY DISCIPLINE CATEGORY

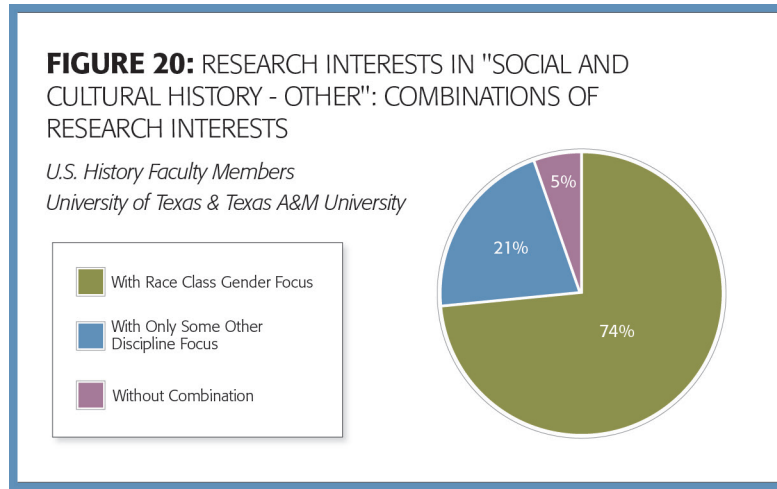
U.S. History Faculty Members
 University of Texas & Texas A&M University



Overall, RCG research interests appear to have more favor among American history faculty members at the University of Texas than at Texas A&M.

Overlap in Faculty Members' Research Interests

Most faculty members teaching introductory American history courses had more than one research interest. An analysis of the overlap provides a clearer understanding of how they tended to combine interests. For example, there is a fairly high research interest in "Social and Cultural History - Other," yet this rarely stood



alone, with 74 percent also co-listing a research interest in studies with a minority race/ethnicity, social class, or gender emphasis (see Figure 20 and Table 8 in Appendix 1). This co-listing was less pronounced for Texas A&M faculty members (who had relatively lower levels of interest in the "Social and Cultural History - Other" category overall).

In addition, most faculty members who indicated an interest in race, minority ethnicity, class, or gender, also expressed an interest in another RCG area. Figure 21 below provides details on these connections.³⁴

FIGURE 21 — RESEARCH INTERESTS WITH OVERLAPPING RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) INTEREST U.S. History Faculty Members University of Texas and Texas A&M University			
	Total	A&M	UT
Race, Minority Ethnicity <i>with Gender and Social Class</i>	73%	67%	82%
Gender <i>with Race, Minority Ethnicity, and Social Class</i>	88%	88%	88%
Social Class <i>with Race, Minority Ethnicity, and Gender</i>	80%	67%	89%

The high frequency of interconnections of race/ethnicity, class, and gender interests suggests that these three categories form a virtually unified sub-discipline that we have been abbreviating as RCG. Figure

³⁴ There were far fewer connections (31 percent) between RCG interests and political history; only ten of the thirty-two faculty members with RCG interests also expressed a research interest in political history.

21 summarizes the overlap in research interests within the RCG categories. Thus at UT 73 percent of the faculty members with a research interest in race and minority ethnicity were also interested in class- and gender-related subjects. Of those interested in social class, 80 percent were also interested in race, minority ethnicity, and gender. Of those with an interest in gender, 88 percent were also interested in race, minority ethnicity, and social class.

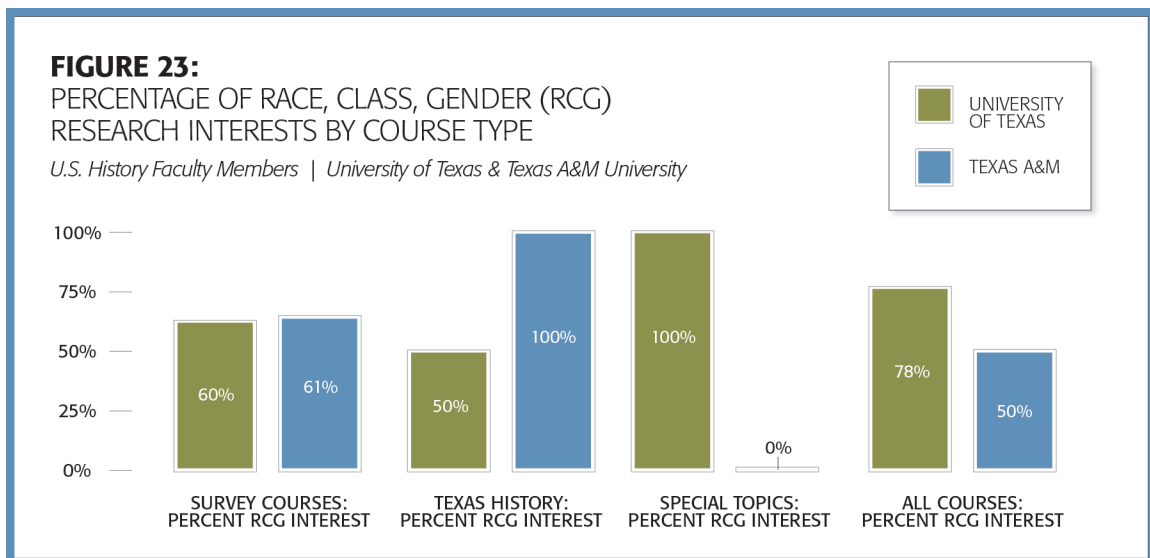
Figure 22 provides examples to illustrate the publications and research interest of faculty members with these overlapping interests.

FIGURE 22 — RESEARCH INTERESTS IN SOCIAL HISTORY WITH RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) EMPHASIS: EXAMPLES U.S. History Faculty Members University of Texas and Texas A&M University	
EXAMPLE #1	
Presentations:	"Finding Common Cause through Race: The Importance of Whiteness to Ethnic Mexican Civil Rights Efforts"
	"Two Races Fit All: Texas Juries, Race and Mexican American Place"
EXAMPLE #2	
Books:	<i>Becoming African in America: Race and Nation in the English Black Atlantic</i>
	<i>E Pluribus Unum: Race Formation in the Era of the American Revolution</i>
EXAMPLE #3	
Book:	<i>Black Rage in New Orleans: Police Brutality and African American Activism from WWII to Hurricane Katrina</i>
Courses Taught:	Race, Sport and Hip-Hop
	Race in the Age of Obama
	Black Nationalism
	Introduction to African American Studies
EXAMPLE #4	
Publication:	"Racism and God-Talk: A Latina Perspective"
Presentations:	"Blues to Hip-Hop: Rethinking Black Women's Sexuality"
	"Beyond La Chicana: Building the Chicana/o Studies Curriculum"

EXAMPLE #5	
Publication:	"Representing Gender and Race at Railroad Circuses in Victorian America"
Courses Taught:	Race, Gender, and American Popular Culture
	Creating the Female Body in American Popular Culture
EXAMPLE #6	
Publication:	"The First Thing Every Negro Girl Does: Black Beauty Culture, Racial Politics and the Construction of Modern Black Womanhood 1905-1925"
Presentation:	"Collecting and Researching Women's and Gender Issues"
EXAMPLE #7	
Dissertation:	"Race, Communicable Disease and Community Formation on the Texas-Mexico Border"
Presentation:	"Framing America's Hard Edges: Photographs, Health Imagery and the (De)Construction of Racialized Belonging"
EXAMPLE #8	
Presentation:	"150 Years of Women's Rights Activism"
Course Taught:	"Gender and Social Construction of Illness"

Race, Class, and Gender Research Interests by Course Type

Thirty-two of the 46 faculty members, or 70 percent, had a research interest in minority ethnicity, social class, or gender.

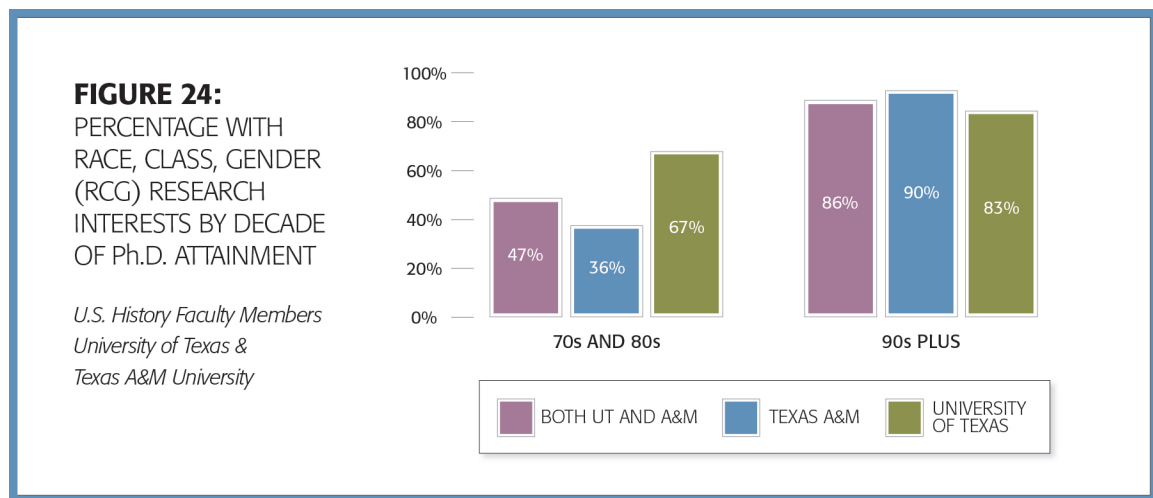


Significantly more UT than Texas A&M faculty members had a research interest in RCG—78 percent versus 64 percent.³⁵ The eight UT faculty members teaching the special topics courses with an RCG interest constituted most of the difference and were only partially offset by five at A&M teaching Texas history. All five Texas A&M faculty members who taught Texas history had an RCG interest, as did one of the two at UT. When only the faculty members teaching U.S. history surveys were examined, the figure was approximately the same, roughly 61 percent.³⁶

Recent Ph.D.s vs. Earlier Ph.D.s: Research Interests

Differences in research interest correspond significantly with the decade in which faculty members received their doctorates. Thirty-nine of the 46 faculty members we studied had earned a doctorate. Those whose doctorates date from the 1990s or 2000s had a greater likelihood of having an RCG research interest than those who had received them in earlier decades. Of the 39 faculty members at UT and A&M with Ph.D.s, 86 percent (19 out of 22) of those who received their Ph.D.s in the 90s or later had race, class, and gender related research interests. Only 47 percent of those who received their Ph.D.s in the 70s and 80s (8 out of 17) had race, class, and gender-related research interests. Overall 27 of the 39 faculty members (69 percent) with Ph.D.s had RCG interests, and they were more prevalent at UT than at Texas A&M.³⁷ The cohort differences were much greater at Texas A&M than at UT.

At A&M, only 36 percent of A&M faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in the 70s or 80s had RCG research interests, but 90 percent of A&M faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in the 90s or later had RCG research interests. Likewise, only 67 percent of UT faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in the 70s or 80s had RCG research interests, but 83 percent of UT faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in the 90s or later had RCG research interests. This is one of our central findings.

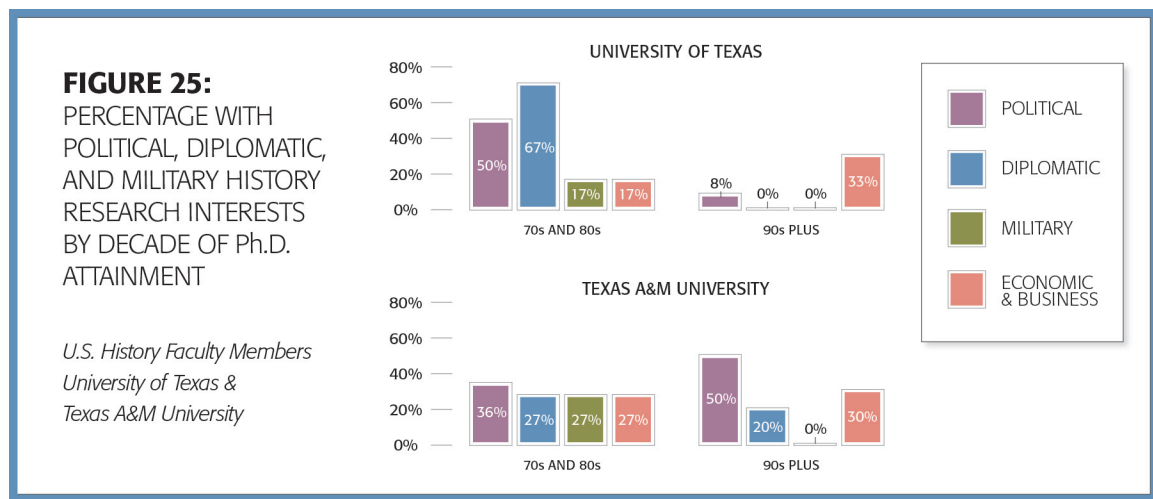


³⁵ Again, the 46 faculty members include full-time regular members of each history department in addition to visiting and adjunct faculty members.

³⁶ See Table 7 in Appendix 1.

³⁷ While there were 32 RCG interested faculty members who taught U.S. history of any type, only 27 had Ph.D.s. See Table 9 of Appendix 1.

This shift did not come about without severe costs to other sub-fields. For example, 50 percent of UT faculty members with earlier Ph.D.s were interested in political history; in the 90s and later cohort, only 8 percent had such an interest. No UT faculty members in the 90s and later cohort had research interests in diplomatic or military history, although 67 and 17 percent (respectively) of the 70s and 80s cohort were interested in these fields. Even at A&M, despite its long tradition of ROTC participation, interest in military history, which was 27 percent for the 70s and 80s cohort, was zero for the 90s and later cohort. At A&M, however, for faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in later decades, interest in political history was 50 percent, an increase from 36 percent for those with Ph.D.s in earlier decades.³⁸ Among recent doctorates, there has also been a greater interest at A&M in diplomatic and international history.³⁹ On the other hand, at both institutions recent doctorates had comparable research interest in economics or business.^{40,41}



Conclusion

As demonstrated by their CVs and self-descriptions on department websites, the research professors engage in focuses heavily on group identities, a situation more pronounced at UT than at Texas A&M. While a greater proportion of the junior faculty members at A&M teaching these courses have RCG interests, they also show more interest in political and diplomatic history than do their peers at UT. Moreover, the RCG percentages at A&M were influenced by the prominence of recent Ph.D.s as adjuncts who had RCG interests.

38 There were five recent doctorates with a political history research interest at Texas A&M, compared to one at the University of Texas. However, all five at A&M also expressed a research interest in race/minority ethnicity, three expressed a research interest in social class issues, and two expressed a research interest in gender.

39 There were two recent doctorates with a diplomatic and international affairs interest at Texas A&M, while the University of Texas has no recent doctorates with such interests.

40 There were three recent doctorates with an economic and business interest at Texas A&M and four at the University of Texas.

41 See Table 10 in Appendix 1.

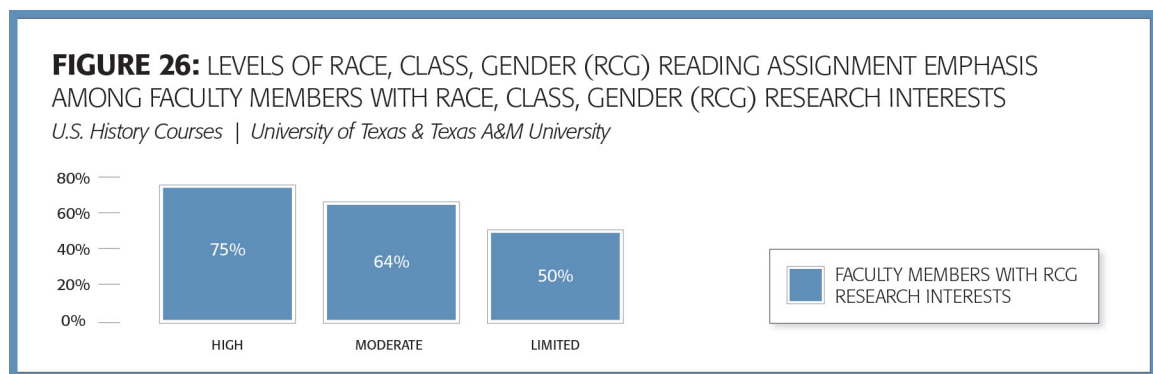
PART III—ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN READING ASSIGNMENTS AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Overall Extent of Race, Class, and Gender Themes in Reading Assignments

We found that of those who taught American history survey courses and had RCG interests (at both universities), 55 percent were high assigners of RCG readings (see Table 14 in Appendix 1).

At Texas A&M, of the nine faculty members who did not have an RCG research focus, 44 percent (four) were high assigners of RCG readings, while among the 14 RCG research-focused faculty members, 57 percent (eight) were high assigners. On the other hand, this direct relationship did not hold at UT; both RCG and non-RCG faculty were predominately high assigners of RCG readings, and non-RCG faculty members were actually higher assigners of RCG readings than were RCG research-focused faculty members.

The figure below shows the association between research interest and reading assignments for all 46 faculty members for all course types. The data show that high assigners of RCG readings were very likely to have an RCG research interest. For example, among faculty members with RCG research interests, 75 percent were high assigners of RCG readings.⁴² Faculty members with RCG research interests were more likely to be high assigners than moderate or low assigners of RCG reading assignments. At UT the association was particularly strong as a result of RCG faculty members teaching heavily RCG-dominated special topics courses.



Recent Ph.D.s vs. Earlier Ph.D.s

At UT the tendency to assign RCG readings is somewhat greater among those faculty members who received their doctorates more recently. This suggests that the preponderance of RCG topics at UT will likely increase over time. With respect to hires, as an institution sows (new faculty hires with strong RCG research interests), so shall it likely reap (greater one-sidedness of reading assignments).

At A&M, however, only 30 percent of those who earned their Ph.D.s later assigned high RCG readings, whereas of those who earned Ph.D.s in the 70s and 80s, 46 percent assigned high RCG readings.

⁴² See Table 11 in Appendix 1.

FIGURE 27 — PERCENTAGE OF HIGH ASSIGNERS OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) READINGS BY DECADE OF Ph.D. ATTAINMENT

U.S. History Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

	Ph.D.s 70s and 80s RCG High Use %	Ph.D.s 90s and Beyond RCG High Use %
Both (39)	53% (17)	59% (22)
A&M (21)	46% (11)	30% (10)
UT (18)	67% (6)	83% (12)

*Numbers in parentheses represent faculty member counts in each category.

Note on History Department Faculty Members

We note that our analysis did not cover entire history departments but only a subset of 46 faculty members: those teaching (in the Fall 2010 semester) lower-division American history courses that satisfied the state's legislative requirement. For that semester, UT listed 94 faculty members in its history department (including both senior and visiting lecturers). There were 40 professors of U.S. history, 18 of whom were in the cohort for this study. Although fewer than half of the U.S. history faculty members at UT are examined here, the 18 we looked at are worth considering separately because they are the ones teaching the courses that satisfy the legislative requirement for U.S. history.

At A&M that semester, 59 faculty members were listed, including visiting and joint appointment faculty members. In addition, nine adjunct faculty members were listed. Of the 28 A&M faculty members in our study, 16 were faculty members, three were visiting and associate faculty members, and nine were adjuncts.

The adjuncts played a significant role in the level of RCG research interests among the cohort of A&M teachers in this study. Seven of the nine had RCG research interests. This means that, at least at A&M, RCG research interest may not necessarily be self-reproducing unless adjuncts are the ones teaching these courses consistently from year to year. Ultimately, however, what matters most is the students' experience, which is essentially the same whether the RCG-focused teacher is a full professor or an adjunct lecturer.

Survey Courses

There was very little connection between high assignment of RCG readings and RCG research interest when we look only at American history survey courses combined for both UT and A&M. These were the courses students fulfilling the American history requirement were most likely to take, taught by 23 faculty members at A&M and 10 at UT. As Table 12 (with textbook assignments included) and Table 13 (with only supplemental readings) in Appendix 1 show, among these survey courses faculty members with RCG research interests were about as likely to be moderate and limited assigners of RCG reading materials as they were to be high assigners.

This combined data, however, masks significant institutional differences, with non-RCG A&M faculty members far less likely to be high assigners than the RCG faculty members at A&M or the non-RCG faculty members at UT (see Tables 14 and 15 in Appendix 1). Thus at A&M, there is a clear association between RCG research interests and the likelihood of being a high assigner of RCG readings, while this is not the case at the University of Texas. One possible reason for this is the difference in institutional climate between the two institutions; the climate at UT appears to encourage all faculty members to assign RCG readings no matter what their research interests are.

Anthologies

As shown on Figure 28, there was not a clear association between research interest and patterns of assigning anthologies, perhaps because very few faculty members used anthologies and only two of the seven faculty members using anthologies had an RCG research focus.⁴³

FIGURE 28 — ANTHOLOGIES: RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER (RCG) THEMES U.S. History Survey Courses University of Texas and Texas A&M University						
Anthology	Assigners	Faculty Focus RCG?		Total Readings	RCG Assigned Readings	% RCG Assigned Readings
After the Fact	1	N	UT	11	6	55%
America Compared	1	N	A&M	22	9	41%
For the Record I	1	Y	A&M	66	31	47%
For the Record II	1	Y	UT	144	63	44%
Going to the Source	1	N	A&M	11	4	36%
Reading the American Past	2	N	UT	78	38	49%
	7	2 of 7		332	151	45%

⁴³ The two RCG research-focused faculty members used *For the Record I and II* anthologies.

Textbooks and Supplemental Readings

Eleven of the 29 textbook-assigning faculty members (38 percent) assigned one high RCG textbook by itself (see Figure 29 below). Three others (10 percent) paired Howard Zinn's textbook *A People's History of the United States*—a high RCG text—with a limited RCG text, either Paul Johnson's *A History of the American People* or Larry Schweikert's *A Patriot's History of the United States*. There was no substantial relationship between the thematic content of the textbook chosen and faculty research interest, and to the small extent to which there was one it was inverse. Of the 11 who did not have RCG research interests, six (55 percent) assigned RCG focused textbooks. It was the institution at which the instructor taught, not personal research interest, which appeared to have the most to do with the type of text chosen.

The assignments by Texas A&M faculty members show that those with an RCG research interest made greater use of RCG textbooks and RCG supplemental readings, and that those without such interests made greater use of non-RCG textbooks and non-RCG supplemental readings. In contrast we found that at UT-Austin, *both* RCG research-interested faculty members and non-RCG research-interested faculty members assigned RCG textbooks at a high rate, no UT faculty member without an RCG interest used a non-RCG text, and two out of four in this group were also high assigners of RCG supplemental readings. The results at UT show again that the institutional climate at UT encourages the use of RCG materials, whether or not the faculty members have such interests.

FIGURE 29 — U.S. HISTORY SURVEY COURSE FACULTY RESEARCH INTEREST AND TEXTBOOK SELECTION

University of Texas and Texas A&M University

		RCG Faculty		Non-RCG Faculty	
Textbook Classification	Total #	#	%	#	%
High RCG textbook alone	11	5	28%	6	55%
Moderate RCG textbook	5	3	16.7%	2	18%
Limited RCG textbook	10	7	39%	3	27%
High RCG textbook paired with Limited RCG textbook	3	3	16.7%	0	0%
Totals	29	18	100%	11	100%

Texas History Courses

Six out of the seven faculty members teaching the history of Texas had an RCG research interest and this seems to have had some influence on assignments;⁴⁴ Professors teaching Texas history made heavy use of RCG readings. Only one of the two UT faculty members had an RCG research interest, but both were

44 Two assigned films had an RCG perspective: "The Texas Rangers and the Legacy of Racial Violence," and "When I Rise: The Story of Barbara Smith Conrad."

high assigners of RCG materials, whether or not their textbook reading assignments were considered. At Texas A&M, all five faculty members had an RCG research interest, but fewer were classified as high RCG assigners if textbook assignments were included. That is, three of the five RCG faculty members were high assigners of RCG readings while two were moderate assigners if textbooks were included, but all five were considered high assigners if we look exclusively at the supplemental reading assignments (see Tables 16 and 17 of Appendix 1).

Special Topics Courses

Particularly in special topics courses, faculty members appeared to be organizing and designing courses around their own research interests. Perhaps they chose to teach special topics courses because of that opportunity. Indeed, every UT special topic course reflected the RCG interests of the faculty member teaching it and all these faculty members were high assigners of RCG reading assignments.

PART IV—IMPLICATIONS

Our findings in this study shed light on a source of Americans' increasing ignorance about their own history. At the two institutions we studied, the focus on race, class, and gender often tended to crowd out the teaching of other perspectives, and many U.S. history courses failed to provide a comprehensive rendering of U.S. history as a whole. Thematically skewed teaching leads to an incompleteness of knowledge, as recent studies of American history knowledge among students demonstrate.⁴⁵

Faculty members at the University of Texas and Texas A&M University teaching U.S. history courses in the semester we studied made assignments that disproportionately favored themes of race, class, and gender over all other themes. The trend was more pronounced at UT than at A&M, although at A&M the decade in which faculty members received their Ph.D.s had greater effect on assignment choices than at UT. Recently minted Ph.D.s at A&M assigned more readings dominated by race, class, and gender themes than those who got their doctorates in the 70s or 80s. At UT, most faculty members tended to assign readings dominated by race, class, and gender themes, no matter whether they were already interested in those topics or had received their Ph.D.s more recently. Institutional and departmental culture appears to play a significant role in the choices faculty members make about how to approach the teaching of history. The department of history at Texas A&M seems to be approaching a similar tipping point in which students will increasingly be provided a less-than-comprehensive interpretation of American history.⁴⁶

Both universities allow special topics courses to satisfy the statutory requirement that students obtain a general understanding of American history. None of these courses provided an adequate overview but instead were narrow in scope. Moreover, every UT special topic course reflected the RCG interests of the faculty member teaching it, and all these faculty members were high assigners of RCG reading assignments.

The Necessity of Details

The body of this report is extremely detailed, and we have gone into greater depth than many people would care to look. It was, however, important to examine the facts at this level in order to demonstrate the degree to which identitarian thinking dominates academic history. The debate about overemphasis on

45 On the 2010 administration of the National Assessment of Education Progress exam in U.S. History, 55 percent of 12th graders scored "Below basic," equivalent to a fail (*The Nation's Report Card: U.S. History 2010*. National Assessment of Educational Progress at Grades 4, 8, and 12. National Center for Education Statistics. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2010/2011468.pdf>). Other reports by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (*Losing America's Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century*. American Council of Trustees and Alumni, 2000. <https://www.goacta.org/publications/downloads/LosingAmerica'sMemory.pdf>), the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (*Failing Our Students, Failing America: Holding Colleges Accountable for Teaching America's History and Institutions*. Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2007. http://www.americancivilliteracy.org/2007/summary_summary.html), and other organizations have produced surveys and studies documenting the same low levels of knowledge of major American events, figures, principles, and texts.

46 We acknowledge that the situation at Texas A&M has been influenced by the prominence of RCG adjunct faculty for these American history courses and, therefore, the eventual outcome is dependent on the trends in permanent hiring within the department.

race, class, and gender has been largely conducted at the level of dueling generalizations and platitudes, with no one commanding the data. We are documenting, for the first time, what is actually being presented to undergraduates.

Detailed as it is, our survey cannot capture all that goes on in the classroom. We used as proxies the elements we did know—reading assignments, professors’ research focuses, and the relationships between them.

National Parallels

We chose to highlight the University of Texas and Texas A&M because Texas statutes championing transparency in the curriculum made these institutions ripe for a case study. What about other colleges and universities around the United States? Informal research by Brooklyn College history professor KC Johnson on several individual institutions offers evidence that the curricula of the flagship Texas universities have parallels elsewhere.⁴⁷

For example, Johnson looked at Bowdoin College, a small liberal arts college in Maine. He found that the choices to hire the five United States history professors on staff at Bowdoin “suggest an emphasis on narrowness over breadth, and an intent to exclude significant portions of the American past.” Johnson gave details:

Two of the department’s five Americanists specialize in U.S. environmental history. (Both have published one book, each on an aspect of the Pacific coast: *Shaping the Shoreline: Fisheries and Tourism on the Monterey Coast*; and *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle*.) The department’s specialist in colonial and revolutionary America hasn’t published a scholarly monograph at all; her highest-profile journal article, on the changing composition of diet in rural New England, is almost a caricature of social-history narrowness. The department’s 19th century U.S. historian has published several books; his focus is on black politics and the pre-Civil War North. And the department’s only non-environmental 20th century U.S. historian has a Ph.D. in the history of science.⁴⁸

All of these faculty members (except the one with no publications or research interests) include race, class, and gender in their research interests.

Johnson has also looked at the U.S. history department at the University of Michigan, a flagship state university:

⁴⁷ We note again that our analysis did not cover entire history departments but only a subset of the faculty members teaching (in the Fall 2010 semester) lower-division American history courses that satisfied the state’s legislative requirement.

⁴⁸ Johnson, KC. “Bowdoin’s History.” *Minding the Campus*, September 29, 2011. http://www.mindingthecampus.com/forum/2011/09/bowdoins_history.html

The University of Michigan history department has 28 tenured or tenure-track professors whose research specialties in some way relate to U.S. history after 1789. Race is the favorite topic; at least eleven of the department's professors indicate that their research in some way deals with race in America. Gender is the next prominent area of specialization; at least seven of the professors offer research in this area (with some overlap with race).⁴⁹

Our count for the University of Michigan department is slightly different from Johnson's and shows an even more disproportional ratio: we counted 30 full-time faculty members, of whom fifteen have a research focus on race or ethnicity, and eight have a research focus on gender.

Finally, Johnson reviewed the large and renowned history department at the University of California at Los Angeles. Focusing this time on the curriculum, he wrote:

At the class level, this semester the UCLA department website lists 16 courses in U.S. history since 1789. No courses deal with the Early Republic or the early 19th century. The only coverage of the Civil War comes in the form of small portions of thematic courses dealing either with race or gender (Slavery: Narrative, Novel, and Film, History of Women in the U.S., 1860-1980). It offers no classes on U.S. military history or U.S. constitutional history. The only standard survey comes in the class dealing with the New Deal, World War II, and the immediate postwar period.

Look what the department emphasizes. A quarter of the classes deal with race. Another two courses focus on ethnicity—including Asian-American cuisine; another two focus on gender. Fifteen or twenty years ago, students might encounter these courses in an ethnic studies department, not a history department at one of the nation's leading public universities.⁵⁰

So even though the syllabi and reading assignments at other colleges and universities are not as accessible as they are in Texas with the "three clicks" law, the elements we do see at these three history departments are all consistent with the trends found at UT and A&M. Each institution, rightly, has its differences (as we saw differences between the two Texas universities). But the trend—the disproportional hiring of faculty members focused on race, class, and gender; the crowding out of important themes and topics in American history; and the failure to offer a comprehensive representation of U.S. history—remains the same.

The study of history at the two Texas universities is also consistent with the national picture. A 2007 survey by the American History Association (AHA) found that the rise of certain subdivisions of history came at

49 Johnson, KC. "In History—the Obsession with Race, Class and Gender." *Minding the Campus*, October 1, 2012. http://www.mindingthecampus.com/forum/2012/10/in_history—the_obsession_with.html

50 Johnson, KC. "How the Colleges Skew U.S. History." *Minding the Campus*, October 15, 2012. http://www.mindingthecampus.com/forum/2012/10/how_the_colleges_skew_us_histo.html

a cost to other subdivisions.⁵¹ David Gordon, professor of history at the City University of New York, cites the AHA survey:⁵²

So then, what is the overall state of the historical profession over the last fifty years? Certainly there has been a remarkable growth in women's studies, and in cultural and world history. The decline in some other fields has been equally dramatic.

[...]

The percentage of diplomatic and economic historians has fallen by more than half in the last thirty years. At the same time, the number of departments with at least one faculty member designated in one of these two fields fell by forty percent. The decline in the number of intellectual historians has been equally precipitous. While this may be explained by the rise in religious history, the number of self-identified intellectual historians fell by half, and the number of departments employing them by a third. A real (albeit less dramatic) decline in the number of social historians might similarly be explained by the growth of new fields in women, gender, and ethnicity, and race.⁵³

Gordon also observed that historians with more recent Ph.D.s tend to be more interested in race and gender than in other subfields:

However, the greatest change by far is the coming transformation of the profession through a tidal wave of young Ph.D.s trained in the newer fields. Shrinking fields such as economic, intellectual, and diplomatic history already contain a disproportionate number of those who received their doctorates more than 30 years ago. This may be compared with the more than fifty percent of recent Ph.D.s trained in cultural and African-American history, and the history of women and gender. These enormous changes promise an almost unprecedented reorientation of the profession.

The cases of the University of Texas and Texas A&M have thus a broader significance: they reflect what the teaching of U.S. history generally looks like in American colleges and universities. We encourage additional studies that would survey the situation at other institutions.

51 Townsend, Robert B. "What's in a Label? Changing Patterns of Faculty Specialization Since 1975." American Historical Association, *Perspectives*, January 2007.

52 Gordon, David. "The Joys and Sorrows of Diversity: Changes in the Historical Profession in the Last Half Century." Forthcoming in *Society*, March/April or May/June 2012.

53 Gordon's article is extensively footnoted with statistics from the AHA study. Our citations for his text are a combination of Gordon's words and AHA's, marked accordingly:

"World history has grown exponentially, from less than one percent to 3.6 percent of fulltime faculty devoted to this field." (Gordon)
 "Diplomatic and international history fell from 7.0 percent of [...] faculty in 1975 to 3.1 percent [...] in 2005. Economic history declined from 5.1. percent [...] to 2.3 percent." (AHA)

"In 1975, 54.7 percent of the departments reported an economic historian. That fell to 31.7 in 2005. Similarly, thirty years ago 74.8 percent of departments listed at least one diplomatic historian, but only 45.9 percent did so in 2005." (AHA)

"In contrast, intellectual history—a field that seems relatively strong in terms of journal and book production—fell steadily in the proportion of listed faculty over the past 30 years. The proportion of listed faculty fell almost 50 percent (from 10.5 to 5.8 percent), and the proportion of departments with at least one identified intellectual historian fell by almost 30 percent (from 81.2 percent to 57.7 percent)." (AHA)

PART V—RECOMMENDATIONS

The question before us now is: To what extent should RCG matters enter the U.S. history curriculum? We believe that, in courses fulfilling a general education requirement, teachers of American history should take race, class, and gender into account and should teach students to understand those aspects of our history, but these should not take precedence over other issues. A broad understanding of U.S. history includes military, religious, diplomatic, technological, and philosophical issues as well as RCG issues. If colleges and universities are to provide students with full and sound knowledge of the subject, some things need to change. We recommend the following steps.

1. Review the Curriculum.

History departments should undertake a thorough review of existing curricula. They should aim to eliminate inappropriate over-emphases and repair gaps and under-emphases. After looking at the results of the review, they should put these repairs into action and make any needed changes.

2. If Necessary, Convene an External Review.

If history departments are unwilling to undertake such a review, or if the effort is compromised by the large number of RCG specialists defending their turf, deans, provosts, or trustees need to consider an external review.

3. Hire Faculty Members with a Broader Range of Research Interests.

Hiring committees should employ new faculty members who have a solid understanding of the broad narrative of American history, even if their scholarly specialization is narrowly drawn. They must also be competent to teach all survey courses and core introductory courses.

Hiring committees should also consider the makeup of the research interests in the department, and if race, class, and gender have become too dominant as research themes, they should decline to hire new faculty members whose research focuses on race, class, and gender. The academic dialogue within a department will be enhanced by inclusion of faculty members with diplomatic, intellectual, philosophical, political, economic, and military history.

4. Keep Broad Courses Broad.

Departments need to guard against the tendency of specialists to bend broader courses around the anvil of their specialties. Survey and introductory courses should give comprehensive overviews. The integrity of the curriculum must take priority over individual faculty research pursuits.

5. Identify Essential Reading.

History department members should collaborate to develop lists of historical documents and works of scholarship that the department expects all students at a given course level to study. Consulting such a list when developing course material can be a safeguard against overlooking crucial material in freshman courses and in more advanced courses. Such a checklist would be helpful to both the review of the existing curriculum and the new course approval process.

6. Design Better Courses.

In the course approval process for special topics courses and any other new courses that require approval, departments should pay close attention to the proposed reading assignments and should keep in mind the makeup of the courses already offered. They should promote the development of courses that treat American history accurately and which contribute to a robust, evenhanded, and reasonably complete curriculum.

7. Diversify Graduate Programs.

Our study shows that faculty members who received their Ph.D.s in the last two decades were much more likely to have a strong RCG research interest (and then to assign more high RCG readings) than those who received their Ph.D.s in the 70s and 80s. Their research interests were likely most influenced by the content of those Ph.D. programs: the books they read, the mentors they learned from, the conferences they attended in graduate school.

To change this trend and bring back more plurality of teaching, graduate programs in U.S. history should ensure that they do not unduly privilege themes of race, class, and gender. This could occur naturally if graduate programs saw a shift in history department hiring patterns and changed their emphasis accordingly. But in any case, graduate programs have an intellectual and social responsibility to cultivate a pluralistic intellectual environment in which to explore a variety of ideas, not an environment in which there is only one overarching perspective.

8. Evaluate Conformity with Laws.

The Texas laws that gave us the opportunity to make this study have proven their worth. We urge state legislatures around the country to adopt similar measures in favor of transparency.

We also urge other states to promote civic knowledge by enacting laws similar to the Texas requirement that students complete two courses in American history. Because history faculties have the skill and often the desire to evade the spirit of such laws (for example, in allowing special topics courses to fulfill the American history requirement), better review and oversight are needed to ensure that colleges' teaching lines up with legal provisions.



9. Publish Better Books.

Publishers should publish textbooks and anthologies that more adequately represent the full range of U.S. history. The tendency of some faculty members to try to balance a liberal textbook with a conservative one shows that there is a need for textbooks that are neither liberal nor conservative and that are comprehensive in their coverage. There are many good anthologies that have by now gone out of print;⁵⁴ we should reprint them or compile new ones. With better and more pluralistic tools, colleges and universities will be more equipped to do justice to U.S. political, economic, diplomatic, and religious history, and the full spectrum of the American story.

10. Depoliticize History.

The root of the problem is that colleges and universities have drifted from their main mission. They and particular programs within them, increasingly think of themselves as responsible for reforming American society and curing it of prejudice and bigotry. When universities and university programs consider it necessary to atone for, and help erase, oppressions of the past; one way in which they do so is by depicting history as primarily a struggle of the downtrodden against rooted injustice. This pedagogical conception may be well-intended, but it is also a limited and partisan one, and history teaching should not allow itself to become imprisoned within a narrow interpretation. A depoliticized history would provide a comprehensive interpretation of American history that does not shortchange students by denying them exposure to intellectual, political, religious, diplomatic, military, and economic historical themes.

The dominance of race, class, and gender themes in history curricula came about through disciplinary mission creep. Historians and professors of United States history should return to their primary task: handing down the American story, as a whole, to future generations.

54 One example is *Documents of American History* (1946) edited by Henry Steele Commager, the contents of which are available online at http://www.nas.org/documents/Document_of_American_History_table_of_contents.pdf.

APPENDIX 1: TABLES

TABLE 1 - ANTHOLOGIES: ASSIGNMENTS BY TOPIC EMPHASIS U.S. History Courses University of Texas and Texas A&M University			
Discipline Category	Assignments % of Total (625)	Anthology Assignments % of Total (410)	Non-Anthology Assignments % of Total (215)
Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	36%	34%	41%
Political History	31%	40%	14%
Philosophical and Intellectual History	21%	28%	9%
Diplomatic and International History	13%	18%	3%
Social History with Gender Emphasis	12%	8%	19%
Social History with Social Class Relationships	11%	7%	21%
Economic and Business History	10%	12%	7%
Social and Cultural History - Other	8%	6%	12%
Military History	7%	6%	9%
Religious History	7%	8%	4%
Miscellaneous	5%	0%	14%
Scientific, Environmental and Technological History	2%	1%	2%

Table 1 above relates to Figure 1 on page 16 and Figure 10 on page 22 in the text.

TABLE 2 - ALL READINGS: ASSIGNMENTS BY TOPIC EMPHASIS

U.S. History Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Discipline Category	Number of Readings	Assignments % of Total (625)	Non-Anthology Assignments	Non-Anthology Assignments % of Total (215)	Anthology Assignments	Anthology Assignments % of Total (410)
Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	227	36%	89	41%	138	34%
Political History	192	31%	30	14%	162	40%
Philosophical and Intellectual History	134	21%	19	9%	115	28%
Diplomatic and International History	81	13%	7	3%	74	18%
Social History with Gender Emphasis	73	12%	41	19%	32	8%
Social History with Social Class Relationships	71	11%	44	21%	27	7%
Economic and Business History	63	10%	15	7%	48	12%
Social and Cultural History - Other	48	8%	25	12%	23	6%
Military History	45	7%	19	9%	26	6%
Religious History	42	7%	8	4%	34	8%
Miscellaneous	29	5%	29	14%	0	0%
Scientific, Environmental and Technological History	10	2%	5	2%	5	1%

Table 2 above relates to Figure 1 on page 16 in the text.

**TABLE 3 - ALL READINGS: ASSIGNMENTS BY
TOPIC EMPHASIS AND COURSE TYPE**

U.S. History Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Discipline Category	Anthology Survey Assignments (410)	Non-Anthology Survey Assignments (153)	Texas History Assignments (29)	Special Topics Assignments (33)
Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	34%	34%	52%	67%
Political History	40%	17%	10%	3%
Philosophical and Intellectual History	28%	11%	0%	9%
Diplomatic and International History	18%	3%	0%	6%
Social History with Gender Emphasis	8%	18%	14%	30%
Social History with Social Class Relationships	7%	26%	7%	6%
Economic and Business History	12%	9%	3%	3%
Social and Cultural History - Other	6%	12%	10%	12%
Military History	6%	9%	7%	12%
Religious History	8%	5%	0%	0%
Miscellaneous	0%	15%	21%	0%
Scientific, Environmental and Technological History	1%	3%	0%	0%

Table 3 above relates to page 16 in the text.

**TABLE 4 - READING ASSIGNMENTS
(EXCLUDING TEXTBOOKS & ANTHOLOGIES) BY TOPIC EMPHASIS**

U.S. History Courses | University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Discipline Category	Number of Readings	Assignments % of Total (91)	A&M Assignments	A&M Assignments % of Total (66)	UT Assignments	UT Assignments % of Total (25)
Political History	22	24%	14	21%	8	32%
Economic and Business History	11	12%	6	9%	5	20%
Diplomatic and International History	5	6%	4	6%	1	4%
Military History	10	11%	9	14%	1	4%
Scientific, Environmental and Technological History	5	6%	4	6%	1	4%
Philosophical and Intellectual History	11	12%	6	9%	5	20%
Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	30	33%	19	29%	11	44%
Social History with Gender Emphasis	10	11%	7	11%	3	12%
Social History with Social Class Relationships	22	24%	14	21%	8	32%
Social and Cultural History - Other	15	17%	12	18%	3	12%
Religious History	4	4%	2	3%	2	8%

*The total number of readings does not equal the number of assignments because some assignments are classified into more than one category. Excluded from this table are two unclassified or miscellaneous assignments.

Table 4 above relates to Figure 7 on page 19 and Figure 9 on page 21 in the text.

TABLE 5 - TEXTBOOKS: LEVEL OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) EMPHASIS

U.S. History Survey Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

	UT	A&M
High	7	7
Moderate	0	5
Limited	2	12
TOTAL	9	24

Table 5 above relates to Figures 11 and 12 on page 25 in the text.



**TABLE 6 - RESEARCH INTERESTS LISTED ON
U.S. HISTORY FACULTY MEMBERS' VITAE***

University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Discipline Category	Number of Faculty with Interest	% of Total Interests (136)
Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis	29	21%
Social and Cultural History - Other	19	14%
Social History with Gender Emphasis	16	12%
Social History with Social Class Relationships	15	11%
Political History	13	10%
Economic and Business History	12	9%
Diplomatic and International History	10	7%
Scientific, Environmental, and Technological History	8	6%
Military History	7	5%
Religious History	7	5%
Philosophical and Intellectual History	0	0%
TOTAL	136	100%

*Percentages reflect the degree that this category was identified among the total research interests of the faculty. In most cases, faculty members had more than one research interest. For those 46 U.S. history faculty members (including Texas history) 136 separate research interests were identified and classified into 11 categories.

Table 6 above relates to page 31 in the text.

**TABLE 7 - PERCENTAGE OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG)
RESEARCH INTERESTS BY COURSE TYPE**

U.S. History Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

	U.S. Combined	Survey Courses	Texas History	Special Topics
Total # of Faculty	46	33	7	9
Total % of RCG interest	70%	61%	86%	89%
Total # of Faculty with RCG interest	32	20	6	8
A&M # of Faculty	28	23	5	1
A&M % of RCG interest	64%	61%	100%	0%
A&M # of Faculty with RCG interest	18	14	5	0
UT # of Faculty	18	10	2	8
UT % of RCG interest	78%	60%	50%	100%
UT # of Faculty with RCG interest	14%	6	1	8

Table 7 above relates to Figure 17 on page 31 and Figure 23 on page 35 in the text.

**TABLE 8 - COMBINATIONS OF RESEARCH INTERESTS IN
"SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY - OTHER"**

U.S. History Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

	TOTAL	A&M	UT
With Race, Minority Ethnicity, Class, Gender Focus	74%	60%	79%
With Only Some Other Discipline Focus	21%	20%	21%
Without Combination	5%	20%	0%

Table 8 above relates to Figure 20 on page 33 in the text.

**TABLE 9 - PERCENTAGE WITH RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG)
RESEARCH INTERESTS BY DECADE OF Ph.D. ATTAINMENT**

U.S. History Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

	ALL			A&M			UT		
Decade of Ph.D.	#	#RCG	%RCG	#	#RCG	%RCG	#	#RCG	%RCG
70s and 80s	17	8	47%	11	4	36%	6	4	67%
90s Plus	22	19	86%	10	9	90%	12	10	83%
TOTAL	39	27	69%	21	13	62%	18	14	78%

Table 9 above relates to Figure 24 on page 36 in the text.

**TABLE 10 - PERCENTAGE OF RESEARCH INTEREST FOCUS BY
DECADE OF Ph.D. ATTAINMENT (FOUR CATEGORIES OF HISTORY*)**

U.S. History Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

	Political		Economic & Business		Diplomatic & International		Military	
Decade of Ph.D.	A&M	UT	A&M	UT	A&M	UT	A&M	UT
70s and 80s	36%	50%	27%	17%	27%	67%	27%	17%
90s Plus	50%	8%	30%	33%	20%	0%	0%	0%

*Percentages reflect the emphasis placed on this category of history as a research priority listed on academic vitae. The lower the percentage, the fewer instances that this history category was selected as a research or discipline focus by a faculty member.

Table 10 above relates to Figure 25 on page 37 in the text.

**TABLE 11 - PERCENTAGE OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG)
RESEARCH INTERESTS BY LEVEL OF RACE CLASS, GENDER (RCG)
ASSIGNMENT EMPHASIS**

All Readings | U.S. History Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Reading Emphasis Levels	Number Faculty Members per Level	Faculty Members with RCG Research Interest	RCG Research Interest %
High	28	21	75%
Moderate	14	9	64%
Limited	4	2	50%
Overall	46	32	70%

Table 11 above relates to Figure 26 on page 38 in the text.

**TABLE 12 - RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) RESEARCH INTEREST BY READING
ASSIGNMENT EMPHASIS | TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS
(EXCLUDING ANTHOLOGIES)**

U.S. History Survey Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Reading Emphasis Levels	Faculty Count by Level	Faculty with RCG Research Interest	RCG Research Interest %
High	18	11	61%
Moderate	12	7	58%
Limited	3	2	67%
TOTAL	33	20	61%

Table 12 above relates to page 40 in the text.

TABLE 13 - RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) RESEARCH INTEREST BY READING ASSIGNMENT EMPHASIS | SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (EXCLUDING TEXTBOOKS AND ANTHOLOGIES)

U.S. History Survey Faculty Members
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Reading Emphasis Levels	Faculty Count by Level	Faculty with RCG Research Interest	RCG Research Interest %
High	15	9	60%
Moderate	15	9	60%
Limited	3	2	67%
TOTAL	33	20	61%

Table 13 above relates to page 40 in the text.

TABLE 14 - LEVELS OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) ASSIGNMENT EMPHASIS AMONG FACULTY MEMBERS WITH/WITHOUT RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) RESEARCH INTERESTS | TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (EXCLUDING ANTHOLOGIES)

U.S. History Survey Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Research Emphasis	#	High		Moderate		Limited	
A&M All Faculty	23	52%	(12)	39%	(9)	9%	(2)
A&M RCG Faculty	14	57%	(8)	36%	(5)	7%	(1)
A&M Non-RCG Faculty	9	44.4%	(4)	44.4%	(4)	11%	(1)
		High		Moderate		Limited	
UT All Faculty	10	60%	(6)	30%	(3)	10%	(1)
UT RCG Faculty	6	50%	(3)	33%	(2)	17%	(1)
UT Non-RCG Faculty	4	75%	(3)	25%	(1)	0%	(0)
		High		Moderate		Limited	
Both A&M and UT Faculty	33	55%	(18)	36%	(12)	9%	(3)
Both A&M and UT RCG Faculty	20	55%	(11)	35%	(7)	10%	(2)
Both A&M and UT Non-RCG Faculty	13	54%	(7)	38%	(5)	8%	(1)

Table 14 above relates to pages 38 and 40 in the text.



TABLE 15 - LEVELS OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) ASSIGNMENT EMPHASIS AMONG FACULTY WITH/WITHOUT RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) RESEARCH INTERESTS | SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (EXCLUDING TEXTBOOKS AND ANTHOLOGIES)

U.S. History Survey Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

Research Emphasis	#	High		Moderate		Limited	
A&M All Faculty	23	43%	(10)	48%	(11)	9%	(2)
A&M RCG Faculty	14	50%	(7)	43%	(6)	7%	(1)
A&M Non-RCG Faculty	9	33%	(3)	56%	(5)	11%	(1)
		High		Moderate		Limited	
UT All Faculty	10	50%	(5)	40%	(4)	10%	(1)
UT RCG Faculty	6	33%	(2)	50%	(3)	17%	(1)
UT Non-RCG Faculty	4	75%	(3)	25%	(1)	0%	(0)
		High		Moderate		Limited	
Both A&M and UT Faculty	33	45%	(15)	45%	(15)	9%	(3)
Both A&M and UT RCG Faculty	20	45%	(9)	45%	(9)	10%	(2)
Both A&M and UT Non-RCG Faculty	13	46%	(6)	46%	(6)	8%	(1)

Table 15 above relates to page 40 in the text.

TABLE 16 - RESEARCH INTERESTS AND LEVEL OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) READING ASSIGNMENTS | TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (EXCLUDING ANTHOLOGIES)

Texas History Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

A&M	# of Faculty	High	Moderate	Limited
A&M Total	5	3	2	0
RCG Research	5	3	2	0
Non-RCG Research	0	0	0	0
UT	# of Faculty	High	Moderate	Limited
UT Total	2	2	0	0
RCG Research	1	2	0	0
Non-RCG Research	1	0	0	0

Table 16 above relates to page 42 in the text.

TABLE 17 - RESEARCH INTERESTS AND LEVEL OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER (RCG) READING ASSIGNMENTS | SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (EXCLUDING TEXTBOOKS AND ANTHOLOGIES)

Texas History Courses
University of Texas and Texas A&M University

A&M	# of Faculty	High	Moderate	Limited
A&M Total	5	5	0	0
RCG Research	5	5	0	0
Non-RCG Research	0	0	0	0
UT	# of Faculty	High	Moderate	Limited
UT Total	2	2	0	0
RCG Research	1	2	0	0
Non-RCG Research	1	0	0	0

Table 17 above relates to page 42 in the text.

APPENDIX 2 - TEXAS STATUTE: AMERICAN HISTORY REQUIREMENT

TEX ED. CODE ANN. § 51.302: Texas Statutes - Section 51.302: AMERICAN OR TEXAS HISTORY

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or university receiving state support or state aid from public funds may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic certificate to any person unless the person has credit for six semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A student is entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent in Texas History in partial satisfaction of this requirement. The college or university may determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or part on the basis of credit granted to the student by the college or university for a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited college or university, or on the basis of the student's successful completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the conditions and under the circumstances common for the college or university's advanced standing examinations. The college or university may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work completed by a student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

Acts 1971, 62nd Leg., p. 3072, ch. 1024, art. 1, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1971. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 5, Sec. 1, eff. March 23, 1995.



APPENDIX 3 - BROAD CHARACTERISTICS OF ELEVEN DISCIPLINE CATEGORIES

Category 1 - Diplomatic and International Relations History

There is a major focus on the policies, actions, relationships (short-term or long-term) and communications (formal/informal) between nations, but also relationships in the international sphere, such as between the United States and some international organization. These actions may lead to or involve conflict and war, but the focus is less on particular aspects of executing the war's strategy or tactics than on broader root causes or policies that led to, or were produced by, the conflict, including topics such as imperialism.

Category 2 - Economic and Business History

There is a major focus on economic activities and trends, either at a macro level or at some particularized level or sector. This also includes actions by entities that regulate or influence economic activities, including consumer and workforce groups, with a focus on the economic influence of these actions. Biographies of business leaders and historical studies of entrepreneurship and corporations were also included.

Category 3 - Military History

There is a major focus on the strategy and tactics of armed forces. This includes history of military leaders, weapons, and tactics of the military, changing battle strategies and tactics, logistics, and issues of national defense and military/civilian relationships.

Category 4 - Philosophical and Intellectual History

There is a major focus on the historical development of philosophical concepts or belief structures. This includes the influence of these philosophical views on governments, individuals, groups, or America as a whole.

Category 5 - Political History

There is a major focus on governmental decisions, public policies, debates of policy proposals of executive or legislative branches of elected or appointed governmental officials or the permanent bureaucracy. This includes actions of particular administrations, but also political campaigns, issues, and outcomes, political biography of major leaders, and legislative history of major issues. Actions of the judicial branch are also included.

Category 6 - Religious History

There is a major focus on religious affiliation and the history of religious movements, churches, and their theological beliefs. This includes the influence of religion, religious groups, and beliefs on governments, individuals, groups, and America as a whole.



Category 7 - Scientific, Environmental and Technological History

There is a major focus on scientists (including biographies), scientific discoveries, and projects, or technological breakthroughs and their influence. This includes scientific actions which have changed society and the lives of the individuals or groups. In addition, public policy issues relating to the environment or conservation of resources or the relationship of science to environmental or conservation issues are included.

Category 8 - Social History with Gender Emphasis

There is a major focus on the role of women and the women's movement in society or in relationship to males, but also the history of attitudes to sexual orientation or the history of lesbian, gay, transgendered, or bisexual individuals, considered generally or in a particular aspect.

Category 9 - Social History with Racial or Ethnic Emphasis

There is a major focus on one or several of the following: the history of, or some aspect of, racial and ethnic relationships in America or the study of a particular racial minority such as African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, or Pacific Islanders, including topics such as the influence of the African Diaspora, black slavery, tribal relations, and issues of discrimination, inequality and social mobility, and also the history of or some aspect of ethnic relationships in America including immigration, discrimination, inequality, and social mobility in America of Hispanics and non-Hispanics or the study of the history of the borderlands near the Mexican and U.S. border.

Category 10 - Social History with Social Class Emphasis

There is a major focus on the history of social class relationships, including social class conflicts, social movements, worker struggles, and labor unions, but also historical studies of elites and non-elites, status, and relationship of income levels to social status and power in society.

Category 11 - Social and Cultural History - Other

There is a major focus on one or several of the following characteristics: age and relationships among age groups, education, material, and visual culture, including art such as performing arts and music, architecture, along with popular culture, including sports and other forms of entertainment, fashion, clothing, and furniture.

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